

The Brooklyn Paper

Including Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, Downtown News, DUMBO Paper and Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper

Brooklyn Papers
Publication

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Renegade Francisco Leandro slides past Cyclones catcher Danilo Reynoso as ball bounces off his glove and toward the backstop. Leandro scored, but the home team held on for a 4-3, opening night win.

CLONE-DEMONIUM



Tyler Davidson rockets a run-scoring double in the first inning of Tuesday's opening night victory.

Take home opener, again

By Vince DiMiceli
Brooklyn Papers Sports Editor

It seems that opening night victories at Keyspan Park are becoming old hat.

For the fourth year in a row, the Brooklyn Cyclones took their home opener, this time topping the Hudson Valley Renegades 4-3 before a sold-out house Tuesday night in Coney Island.

The win came after the normal pomp and circumstance surrounding the seasonal return of professional baseball to Brooklyn — which hasn't lost much luster since the Cyclones' inaugural season in 2001.

This year, fans were even greeted at the gates by Cyclones players, who signed autographs and shook hands while introducing themselves to the Brooklyn faithful. After Borough President Marty Markowitz received a resounding "boo" for bouncing the ceremonial first pitch in front of home plate, the home team quickly went to work.

In the top of the first, shortstop Kevin Rios flashed some leather and lightning by charging and fielding a high chopper from the New York-Penn League's leading hitter, Chad Cooper (356), before firing a strike to Tyler Davidson at first for the out.

With the ever-increasing crowd roaring, Dante

See **OPENER** on page 5

6 could seek Yassky's seat

Councilman may run at DA Hynes

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

With Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky eyeing a challenge of longtime Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes, a slew of Democratic candidates are lining up to run for his seat next year.

Yassky, who was first elected to the seat in 2001, when he replaced the term-limited Ken Fisher by defeating heavily favored Democratic Party stalwart Sieve Cohen in the primary, has raised more than half-a-million dollars thus far for the 2005 election.

Potential candidates have surfaced from across the district, which also includes Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO, Vinegar Hill, Park Slope, Williamsburg and Greenpoint.

Among the most high-profile names is Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce President Kenneth Adams.

"If Councilman Yassky decides to run for district attorney, I'm going to consider running for the seat," said Adams, 44, a Cobble Hill native who now lives with his wife, Diana, and daughters, Rose and Ginger, in Boerum Hill.

Before taking the helm at the chamber in 1995, Adams served as director of the Metrotech Business Improvement District. He currently serves on the boards of the Brooklyn Arts Council, Brooklyn Bridge Park Local Development Corporation, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation and Brooklyn Sports Foundation, among many others.

Both Alan Fleishman and Jo Anne Simon, Democratic co-district leaders from the 52nd Assembly District, are also considering runs for the council seat.

A gay activist who works for city Comptroller Bill Thompson, Fleishman is a former president of the LAMBDA Independent Democrats political club. He is a board member of the Brooklyn AIDS Task Force and is a member of Brooklyn Pride, which organizes Brooklyn's annual lesbian and gay pride parade.

"I would like to see responsible development downtown, and would like to help maintain the character of brownstone

See **YASSKY** on page 15



J.L. Aronson, of Fort Greene, holds a sign in protest at last Saturday's rally against the proposed Nets arena and high rise development in Prospect Heights.

Arena foes at 'center court'

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

It may one day be center court for the Brooklyn Nets, but over the weekend the intersection of Pacific Street and Fifth Avenue was center stage for a rally against Bruce Ratner's massive arena, housing and office development plan.

Hundreds of opponents, including several elected officials, turned out on the sunny Saturday afternoon to protest what they called the "over-development" of the neighborhood.

"This is a land grab for the rich," Prospect Heights Councilwoman Letitia James, an ardent opponent of the project, told the crowd.

Rep. Major Owens, who wants to move the proposed arena to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, called details of Ratner's plan — under which the developer would acquire air rights owned by the state-run Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the state would con-

NOT JUST NETS THE NEW BROOKLYN

dem acres of private property — "the biggest giveaways in the history of the state."

Ratner's purchase of the New Jersey Nets is expected to be approved by the NBA before the end of the month. He wants to build the team a new arena at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

His \$2.5 billion plan, known as Atlantic Yards, also includes four soaring office towers and 4,500 units of housing. A total of 17 buildings would rise in a six-block area bounded by Dean Street and Flatbush, Atlantic and Vanderbilt avenues, over the MTA-owned Long Island Railroad storage yards and on privately owned land.

As part of the plan Ratner has relied on the state's authority of eminent domain to condemn the privately held property, thus forcing their sale. With that threat hanging over their heads, several area property owners, primarily in two condominium apartment buildings, have agreed in principal to sell their property to Ratner at well above market rate. As part of those deals, which reportedly have not been signed yet, the property owners must agree to gag orders preventing them from criticizing Ratner's plan or attending anti-arena rallies.

The contract also reportedly requires two residents from each building to speak in favor of the plan.

Those negotiations are still underway and several tenants from 636 Pacific St. could be seen mingling in the crowd at Saturday's rally.

Queens Councilman Tony Avella, who chairs a land use subcommittee, joined the opposition this week and called on the de-

See **RALLY** on page 4

DUMBO Starbucks near

The Brooklyn Papers

Starbucks, the Seattle-based retail coffee giant, is negotiating with a DUMBO real estate developer to open one of its ubiquitous coffeehouses on the corner of Main

and Front streets in the once-industrial neighborhood.

"We're negotiating with Starbucks ... and we're close to signing," said Will Kim, a project developer for Shaya Boymelgreen, the property's owner.

The once gritty industrial neighbor-

hood, tucked between the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges, has undergone a major transformation over the past several years with hundreds of new luxury apartment conversions. Formerly home to a number of sculptors, painters and furniture makers, the neighborhood now

also houses lawyers and investment banks.

So news of Starbucks, a symbol of corporate retail America, coming to DUMBO sparked a broad range of reactions from neighborhood residents.

See **COFFEE** on page 15



Heaven on 7th

Christian Rogers, 2, enjoys an ice cream cone during the "Seventh Heaven" street fair on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope last Sunday.

Ross realty sold

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

As if we needed a reminder that Brooklyn real estate is booming, Manhattan-based Halstead Property is setting up shop here.

One of the largest real estate brokerage firms in the city with more than \$1.5 billion in sales last year, Halstead has purchased William S. Ross Real Estate.

Bill Ross, owner of the Montague Street realty firm, will be

executive director of Halstead's Brooklyn office.

In addition to the office at 156 Montague St., Halstead, whose focus until now has been almost exclusively Manhattan, will also operate out of Ross' office at 162 Court Street in Cobble Hill.

"A large number of Manhattan firms have been trying to come to Brooklyn for a long time," said Ross. "I chose Halstead because they understood that Brooklyn is a borough of

See **ROSS** on page 15

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G BROOKLYN

An alternative for hobo brides

It's not just Nets ... It's a whole new Brooklyn!



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April 3, 2004



June 12, 2004



June 19, 2004

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Gowanus Expressway town hall Mon.

By Jotham Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

Members of a group seeking to raze the crumbling Gowanus Expressway and replace it with a tunnel are continuing to prioritize their concerns before a meeting next month with the Department of Transportation.

In anticipation of that meeting, the Gowanus Community Stakeholders Group is holding a corridor-wide town hall meeting at Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon St., at Court Street, this Monday, June 28, at 6:30 p.m. Members of the group, which wants to replace the crumbling, elevated highway with a tunnel, hope for a huge turnout.

"The Gowanus Expressway divides communities — Bay Ridge from Dyker Heights, Sunset Park from the waterfront, and Red Hook from Gowanus and Carroll Gardens," said Michael Cairl, the group's recently appointed chairman, referring to the 5.7-mile stretch of elevated highway running from the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway down to the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

The group has been fighting for years to have the thoroughfare replaced with a tunnel system leading into Manhattan. But before a meeting next month with Department of Transportation officials, activists say they need to agree on a final plan.

As the details being sorted out is where, below ground, the tunnel would course. Neil Cohen, a vice chair of the group, said that eight different routes are being considered, each beginning in the Dyker Heights vicinity and leading into the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel in Red Hook.

Still to be decided, however, are the portions of the route running underneath Sunset Park, Red Hook, Gowanus and Carroll Gardens.

At a meeting in May that was organized for residents in Red Hook, most believed that routes coursing underneath First, Second and Third avenues would be the least effective alternatives to the Gowanus. They also said they were the most likely to threaten the

safety of a number of historic or significant buildings.

In fact, said many at that meeting, temporary and permanent property condemnations were the most worrisome among a dozen issues being discussed. Where those takings would occur, depends on where tunnel entrances and exits would be located.

Most agreed that the best route was one they call the New Harbor Alignment. By coursing under the waterfront, the entrances and exits would be less burdensome on traffic. That route would curve under Shore Parkway, up the Sunset Park waterfront and into Red Hook and Carroll Gardens.

One impetus for the push to dig a

tunnel is to see neighborhoods reconnected, especially in Red Hook.

The expressway was built in the early 1940s, when city power broker Robert Moses headed the bridge and tunnel authority. Along with the entrance to the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel it effectively segregated Red Hook from Carroll Gardens and other inland neighborhoods.

On Monday, said Cairl, the group will present the results of its community workshops over the last several months as well as any progress made with the state Department of Transportation. They will also reveal a draft of their proposed "Community Alternative" to the expressway.

ATTENTION SENIORS

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Barry Shapiro

John Gableman CEO
Gableman Advisory Services

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Olympians in DUMBO

The 2004 U.S. Olympic boxing team visited Gleason's Gym in DUMBO Wednesday, stopping by Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park for a group photo. Pictured are (back row) Andre Dirrell (165 lbs; Middleweight); Andre Ward (178 lbs; Light Heavyweight); Jason Estrada (201+; Super Heavyweight); Devin Vargas (201 lbs; Heavyweight); and Vanes Martirosyan (152 lbs; Welterweight) and (front row) Olympic Head Coach Basheer Abdullah; Rau Shee Warren (106 lbs; Light Flyweight); Ronald Silver (112 lbs; Flyweight); and Vicente Escobedo (132 lbs; Lightweight). The team leaves for Greece on July 3.

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Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Mayor:

As leaders of the unions representing New York City firefighters, police and teachers, we felt compelled to bring 60,000 of our members to City Hall on June 8 to get our message to the public — because you do not appear to be listening to us.

The fact is you left us with little choice because your administration has failed to negotiate in good faith. Cops and firefighters have been without a contract for two years and teachers have gone without one for more than one year.

New York City public school teachers earn \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year less than their suburban counterparts. Police here are among the lowest paid in the metropolitan area. And city firefighters are among the lowest paid in the entire Northeast. Our members are leaving in droves for higher-paying suburban jobs and other career opportunities.

Even if the city doesn't have the money to pay us what we are truly worth, we want to be paid what is fair. And the one-size-fits-all contract agreement your administration has reached with other city unions simply does not meet our needs — or the city's.

We are the ones who keep this city safe and educate its children. You have praised us for our dedication and hard work. But praise does not keep a roof over our families and it doesn't put food on our tables. It doesn't negate the fact that many of our members must work more than one job to give their families a decent standard of living.

If you want New York City's future to remain vibrant, then you should invest in those of us who work to make it so. Show us the respect we deserve, bargain in good faith and treat us fairly. That shouldn't be too much to ask.

Randi Weingarten,
President
United Federation
of Teachers

Patrick J. Lynch
President
Patrolmen's Benevolent
Association

Stephen J. Cassidy,
President
Uniformed Firefighters
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Former firefighter's access gets denied

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A former firefighter was arrested for allegedly using his old identification card to access files at the Fire Department headquarters in Metrotech near Jay Street and Tech Place.

Police said the 51-year-old, who lives in New Jersey, had been accessing records over the past year and was finally caught on June 16. The firefighter left the department in June 2002.

According to the criminal complaint report, the former Fire Department employee gained access to confidential papers on 36 separate occasions.

He was charged with criminal impersonation and trespassing.

Roaming charge

A phone bill for \$8,973?

That's what one Boorum Hill resident received in the mail this week for a phone she says does not even belong to her.

The victim, 50, said somebody used her Social Security number and other personal information to open up a cell phone account in her name. A bill came to her home, on Boorum Place near Dean Street, on June 12, but the charges had been ticking up since April.

Many of the calls were made to and from Italy, she told police.

84/76 BLOTTER

Snoozers loses

A Sunset Park man who fell asleep during a mid-afternoon ride on a subway train awoke to an unpleasant surprise.

The 40-year-old passenger on a Brooklyn-bound R train woke up at the DeKalb Avenue stop at 3:30 pm on June 11 to discover the sandwich he'd swiped his wallet, containing \$100, out of his pants pocket.

99-cent rob

A pair of bungling bandits was caught trying to steal a safe from the basement of a 99-cent store at Smith and Livingston streets.

An employee walked down

to the basement and discovered the thieves at 11:10 am on June 18. The men dropped the safe, which reportedly contained more than \$6,000 in cash, and fled out the door.

Both men were caught on the store's surveillance camera.

Slept through it

A man fell asleep on a bench inside the Hoyt-Schermerhorn subway station and when he awoke his money was gone.

The victim, 68, arose from his slumber at 5 am and discovered he had his back pocket.

He told cops more than \$700 and a Nokia cell phone were taken in the June 20 incident.

B'Bridge suicide gunman

Associated Press

A gunman on the pedestrian walkway of the Brooklyn Bridge shot himself in the chest Thursday morning after randomly firing one or more shots into the air, police said.

The unidentified 24-year-old man was near the Manhattan side of the bridge when he opened fire about 10:15 am, police said. Officers had arrived minutes earlier, responding to a report of a man with a gun.

Police from the 84th Precinct responded to the 911 call.

With cops around him shouting for him to "drop the gun" and "get down," the man sat down on the walkway, put the gun to his chest and fired a round from his 9-mm handgun, according to police and witnesses. No one else was injured.

The gunman was rushed to New York University Downtown Hospital where he died.

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPREME COURT, COUNTY OF KINGS, NYCL. 1998.2 TRUST and THE BANK OF NEW YORK as Collateral Agent and Guarantor for the 1998.2 TRUST. Plaintiff against HILL, BEATY, INC. et al. (Delaware). Pursuant to a Judgment of Final

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 23rd day of June, 2004, bearing the Index Number 1998.2 TRUST, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to assume the name of: Gennady Uchitell. My present name is: Gennady Uchitell. My present address is: 2015 Shore Parkway, #140, Brooklyn, NY 11234. My place of birth is: Odessa, Ukraine. My date of birth is: August 05, 1961.

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Here is our 22nd attempt!

It has been a very long journey lasting over three years. Whilst our interpretations have been strewn with imperfection, everything we have discovered has confirmed and reconfirmed the perfection of the source material that we are trying to decode (which is why we keep at it). We are now up to the 9th generation of the 'true' or the 'real' bible code. If you wish to see for yourself the complexity and brilliance of the wording of the bible, have a look at our decoding of Genesis 41, the dream of the 7 fat cows and the 7 thin cows and the dream of the 7 fat ears of corn and the 7 thin ears of corn. These dreams apply today to an ongoing famine in grain and to a famine in meat to come (we believe).

www.truebiblecode.com/understanding304.html

We have amended our calculations in the light of recent events (or lack thereof) and again have three updated biblical calculations from Revelation 17, 1 Kings 18 and Jonah 3, that reveal that...

On or before July 20th (2004Tammuz30) and probably on or before July 9th (2004Tammuz19) and more probably on or before July 3rd, 4th or 5th (2004Tammuz14/15), the UN Security Council will expand to 10 permanent members. This expansion is the birth of the image of the beast of Revelation 13. We call this image UN10.

For the whole history of the 4 true Christian churches and the whole timetable of Satan's 6,000 year lease on this planet and for a dozen proofs of the date of the last day of this system as being 2008March21, or 2008Nisan14, and

EASTERN ATHLETIC

[illegible]

NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS

Watchdog calls for arena 'LURP'

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

Saying the appointed state officials who will review Bruce Ratner's \$2.5 billion Atlantic Yards arena, office tower and housing plan are not accountable to the public, a government watchdog group is calling for the plan to be put through city review.

"Such a big and important

project should go through the same process that any other development would normally go through," Gene Russianoff, a senior attorney for the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPiRG), said this week.

The city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) requires the recommendations of, and public hearings before, the local community board, borough president, City Planning Commission and City Council.

Ever since the project — which would build 2.4 million square feet of new office and retail space, approximately 4,500 units of housing and an arena to house Ratner's New Jersey Nets — was announced last December, the developer has said the state would take the lead as both co-applicant and arbiter.

"The usual process gives the mayor and council final say, and that both holds them accountable and empowers

them to represent the constituents," said Russianoff.

Instead of elected officials, if the project goes to the state, an Empire State Development Corporation-appointed board would be making the decisions, said Russianoff.

"Nobody knows their names and faces. Should they be making decisions? We say, 'No,'" he said.

Instead of the city's rigorous review process, most of the public review for the arena plan will be conducted at the state level, and only require one public hearing, according to Russianoff.

Developed as a project of the Empire State Development Corporation, Atlantic Yards would be subject only to environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SE-QRA), a process that involves much less public scrutiny than does ULURP.

Through a spokesman, Councilman David Yassky, whose Brownstone Brooklyn district abuts the proposed arena, agreed with Russianoff. "It should go through an intensive city screening process. The state process is simply not going to be enough to fully examine the project," said his spokesman, Evan Thies.

Julia Vitullo-Martin, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think-tank, called it "outrageous" that the project would likely skirt city review.

"This is something outrageous about this combination of power — the state can condemn private property and then not subject any of its decisions to public review," Vitullo-Martin said.

At a June 17 rally on the steps of Borough Hall to support the Atlantic Yards project, the loudest cry came from labor.

As reported in last week's Brooklyn Papers, men and women from various unions voiced support of the arena, residential and office tower development planned for Prospect Heights.

From the beginning the project's developer, Bruce Ratner, has said the project will create 10,000 permanent jobs and 15,000 construction jobs.

But critics of the plan are pointing out that the project will really only create 1,500 construction jobs, which will continue each year for 10 years.

"Fifteen-hundred jobs a year over 10 years is 15,000 jobs and it's 1,500 jobs a year in an area of high unemployment," said Forest City Ratner spokeswoman Beth

ulio-Martin said.

The ability to override city review dates back to the days of Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, who created the Urban Development Corporation, now known as the Empire State Development Corporation, she noted.

"He wanted to evade community members who would oppose many of the projects he wanted to impose on them," said Vitullo-Martin.

Rockefeller was governor from 1959 to 1973. The Urban Development Corporation could override local zoning, condemn property and create an independent appraiser to set the price for the air rights to build over the rail yards.

The current Atlantic Yards project would stretch from Flatbush Avenue to Vanderbilt Avenue and Dean Street.

Ratner does not own any of that land.

He needs the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to

sell him the rights to build over the Long Island Rail Road storage yard on the site.

He also needs the Empire State Development Corporation to sign on as lead agency for the project, enabling it to force property owners in the path of the plan to sell their property under the state's power of eminent domain.

Gov. George Pataki, a friend of Ratner's dating back to their days attending Columbia University Law School together, has appointing authority over both the MTA and ESDC boards.

NYPiRG is also asking for an independent appraiser to set the price for the air rights to build over the rail yards.

"MTA should get fair market value for the site," said Russianoff. Prospect Heights Councilwoman Letitia James has repeatedly asked the MTA to put the property up to a bidding process.

Daniel Goldstein, a spokes-

man for Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn, a group of residents opposed to the plan, said he was pleased to see the show of support from NYPiRG.

"Develop-Don't Destroy has been pushing and asking for this development proposal to go through ULURP since December. We will support any group that is calling for the same thing," Goldstein said.

"We are calling on City Council members to keep their rights of oversight of this project," he added.

While land use oversight is still one of the few powers afforded to borough presidents, when asked about the NYPiRG statement, Brooklyn Borough President Mark Markowitz, who spearheaded the arena project and has been its most vocal cheerleader, simply said it was a state project and "ULURP is not applicable."

"However, I am confident that there will be meaningful

community participation that will no doubt improve this plan and make it a win-win for both the neighborhood and for all of Brooklyn," Markowitz said.

Asked about the role of City Planning, Rachael Rayoff, a spokeswoman for the agency, said, "When state MTA land is involved, the state has jurisdiction."

Several actions called for in the project, including rezoning and street demapping, would normally go through ULURP.

NYPiRG, which came out this week against the Jets Stadium on the west side of Manhattan, has not taken a position on the Atlantic Yards project itself.

The NBA board of governors is expected to approve Ratner's \$300 million purchase of the Nets by the end of June. After that, the developer is expected to move swiftly to get the project off the ground.

Convoy to show Ikea traffic impact

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

South Brooklyn residents who think an Ikea on the Erie Basin waterfront would turn Red Hook and surrounding neighborhoods into a parking lot are planning to take their cars to the streets to prove the point.

Dozens of anti-Ikea activists are expected to take part in the caravan through the streets of Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill to raise awareness about the potential traffic the megastore would bring.

Organizers decided to say when the procession would take place, or precisely where, citing fear of reprisal from Ikea supporters.

"What is becoming obvious is that it's actually not Red Hook that is going to get creamed by traffic, it's the surrounding neighborhoods," said Lou Sones, a founding member of Coalition to Revitalize our Waterfront Now! (CROWN), a community group opposed to the Ikea.

The Swedish home furnishings giant wants to construct a 346,000-square-foot store at the former New York Shipyard site between Dwyer and Columbia streets along the Erie Basin.

Its plans also include 1,400 parking spaces and more than 70,000 square feet of additional retail and restaurant space along the waterfront.

The proposed store has exacerbated an already split community with one side, primarily from the Red Hook Houses public housing project, pushing for jobs while other residents are concerned about traffic and appropriate waterfront development.

Ikea estimates 600 jobs will become available at the store and has committed to opening a job training center inside or near the Red Hook Houses, home to approximately 70 percent of the neighborhood's residents.

Sones and other critics are worried about the 50,000 cars per week — or 2.6 million per year — they say Ikea will attract.

"What people don't take into account is the cumulative effect," said Sones, who kicked off a number of other large-volume stores that have already opened in the area including Home Depot, Lowe's and Pathmark, as well as the Fairway grocery store under construction at the end of Van Brunt Street in Red Hook. All are stores that draw a large volume of drivers rather than mass transit riders.

Responding to word of the protest caravan, Jesse Mayr,

Ikea's land use lawyer, cited the company's proposed subway shuttles and a free Manhattan-to-Red Hook ferry service. He also rebuffed CROWN's traffic volume numbers.

"The suggestion that Ikea Red Hook will draw 50,000 vehicles per week is simply untrue," Mayr told The Brooklyn Papers. "For example, our studies indicate that on a busy weekend day — our busiest days of the week — we expect to draw approximately 5,000 cars."

Laura Goodwin, who lives on Van Dyke Street with her partner and twin 7-year-old twins just a block away from the proposed Ikea site, also plans to join in the caravan.

"Ikea's attitude is they don't care," said Goodwin. "They don't care that our kids are going to grow up with asbestos being released in the air — thousands of rats that will come across and infest our homes. There's an apathy there that doesn't work for me."

Kel Hodge, a Red Hook resident who moved to the waterfront community a year ago said she is "horrified" about Ikea coming in.

Said Hodge, "People see it as a Red Hook issue, when in reality it's an issue for all of Brooklyn."

Clarification

The article headlined "DUMBO protesters meet on bridge" in the June 19 edition noted that Borough President Marty Markowitz, who had been expected to march with the poets, was a "no-show."

The article did not explain that the borough president missed the march due to the death of his father-in-law, Dr. Jules Snow.

We regret the omission.

Witnesses' DUMBO tower hearing on Wednesday

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 2 is hosting the first public hearing on the plan by the Watchtower Society, the corporate entity of the Jehovah's Witnesses religious order, to build for soaring apartment buildings on an immense plot of land at the edge of DUMBO and Vinegar Hill.

The hearing is scheduled for this Wednesday, June 30, at 6 p.m., at Congregation Mount Sinai, 250 Cadman Plaza West.

With its world headquarters just blocks

away, the new development would house 2,000 Jehovah's Witnesses.

Currently zoned for manufacturing, the Watchtower Society originally planned a printing facility for the site and even began demolition that has left a gaping hole there for the past 12 years.

But last year the organization shifted its pricing facilities 90 miles outside the city to upstate Wallkill and is now seeking a variance to use the site for residential development.

The plan includes 1,000 units of housing divided between four buildings of 20, 18, 16 and 14 stories. The tallest building would reach 220 feet.

The facility would also include a three-story assembly hall with a seating capacity of 2,500, a 1,600-person dining facility and an 1,100-space underground garage.

The site has raised concerns among its DUMBO neighbors who claim the project is out of scale with the rest of the neighborhood and would create a "dead zone" because it does not include any retail space at the street level.

The CB2 hearing is the first stop along the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). The application will later be reviewed by Borough President Marty Markowitz, the City Planning Commission and the City Council.

Red Hook Ikea hearing set

The Brooklyn Papers

Borough President Marty Markowitz will host a hearing Wednesday on the plan to build an Ikea home furnishings store on the Erie Basin waterfront in Red Hook.

The public hearing, part of the city's land use review process, will be held at Borough Hall, on Joralemon Street at Court Street, at 6 p.m. on June 30.

Two weeks ago, Community Board 6 voted to approve the application to build the 346,000-square-foot store.

Ikea builds most of its stores in suburban areas, in industrial parks or off highway exits; this Ikea would be the first in an urban area.

The plan has split Red Hook into two camps — those who want the jobs Ikea officials promise to bring to the community

and those concerned that the neighborhood, which already handles a heavy volume of truck traffic, will be overrun by vehicles heading to and from the big box store.

After the hearing, the borough president will have approximately two weeks to make a recommendation before the application moves on to the City Planning Commission and then the City Council.

EDC counters 'Downtown Plan lie'

To the editor:

Your article headlined, "Charge city big lie about D'town study" (Page 1, June 19) was a serious misrepresentation of our efforts to determine the historic validity of claims that several buildings falling within the Downtown Brooklyn Plan may have been safe houses on the Underground Railroad.

As soon as we learned of claims related to the properties on Duffield and Gold streets, we directed our environmental consulting firm AKRF to make the best possible assessment of the historic significance of these three buildings.

LETTER

AKRF contacted more than a dozen respected institutions to learn as much as possible about their history. Some of these institutions provided a great deal of information, while others guided AKRF to other resources.

It's important to note that all these institutions were contacted and, in many instances, the contrary are completely false.

Our research has yet to uncover enough evidence to

meet the required criteria to place these buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. As I said in my testimony before the City Council Land Use Committee, the Bloomberg Administration is committed to learning the truth about these properties as we move forward in the implementation of the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, which will bring much needed jobs, investment and open space to the community. We were gratified the committee voted unanimously in favor of the plan.

—Judith Sirofman
Chief Operations Officer
NYCEDC

Send us a letter

By mail: Letters Editor, Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
Fax: (718) 834-9278
By e-mail: Newsevent@BrooklynPapers.com

Letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone (only the writer's neighborhood and street name are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned.

RALLY AGAINST RATNER...



Laura Newman, center, leads Reverend Billy Talen's Stop Shopping Gospel Choir in a performance at the rally against the proposed Nets arena and high-rise development, last Saturday, on Pacific Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

Continued from page 1

veloper to seek community input on the plan.

"This is our city. We should have a say. You should have a say," Avella told the protesters.

"Not one dollar of taxpayer money should be spent to make a billionaire richer," he said.

Neither Ratner nor the city has disclosed how much public money would be needed for the project, which has been staunchly supported by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Borough President Marty Markowitz.

"We're here to fight for the resources that belong to the city," said Owens.

The rally took a wacky turn when Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir took the stage and started preaching to the well, choir.

Billy Talen, an actor and performance artist who takes on the persona of a southern preacher, was backed up by a dozen "choir" members as he railed against corporate greed and delivered a paean to Daniel Goldstein, a resident of 636 Pacific St. who has so far refused to sell his apartment to Ratner.

Although it appeared there were several hundred people at the rally at any one time, Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn, the group that organized the event, claims 3,000 people attended between the hours of 2 and 8 p.m., basing their estimate on the number of stickers given to each person entering the rally. The group raised \$5,000 for their cause at the rally.

Rep. Major Owens, who would like to see the arena built at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, speaks at rally.

The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

Want's in center? Derran.

AFTER A WEEK in action, the 2004 Brooklyn Cyclones have already had numerous changes to their roster. Between the June 21 game at Hudson Valley and the next day's home opener there were eight roster moves. So, in an effort to prevent Cyclones fans from suffering the same befuddled state as Lou Costello, let's present our second annual "Who's On First" (all stats as of June 23).

Who's On First?

Right now, the answer is Wendt, pronounced "went." Actually, the answer is more like "I Don't Know," since the Cyclones have three first basemen, but who can resist a name like Wendt to follow Who and What?

Alliteration aside, Justin Wendt is a former enforcer. No, nothing involving anyone getting whacked, but enforcement nonetheless — hockey style. The 6-foot-3, 228-pound Wendt was a defenseman in amateur hockey in his native Canada who would easily accumulate more than 200 penalty minutes a season.

"My job," explains the affable Wendt, "was to get into fights with opposing players. That was work. Baseball is fun."

Wendt has power potential. He has already been called "Norm" by some fans, a reference to the "Cheers" character played by actor George Wendt, whom Wendt insists is no relation.

Also on first is Jabe Bergeron, also a hockey player, from Williams College. A left wing, he once finished second in his league in goals. Bergeron went to the academically prestigious Williams figuring he'd "pick the school for the academics and if I were good enough in baseball, they would find me." The Cyclones did.

Tyler Davidson will also play first for the Clones. The power-hitting Davidson was with the Cyclones in 2003. Davidson nearly knocked down the leftfield fence with his line drive double in his first game with the team.

What's On Second?

No, What's (make that Watts, as in Derran Watts) is in center field. At second is Bryan Zech, a 5-foot-10 sparkplug who says he likes "to drive pitchers crazy."

Zech attempts this mental abuse by trying to run the count, bunting and stealing. Also playing second are Kevin Rios, up from Kingsport where he hit .231, and David Housel, from Mendham, N.J., and a Cyclone last season. Housel explained that he's actually in his third year in Brooklyn, having played for the Brooklyn Bonnies, an amateur team that plays its home games at the Parade Grounds.

I Don't Know's on third

A Bronx guy is on third, Travis Garcia, and despite an 0-for-19 start at the plate, Garcia has not been accused any Bronx cheers. Garcia spent part of last season at Brooklyn. This season, the former shortstop from Iona College has started every Cyclones game.

I Don't Give A Damn (shortstop)

At short will be Ryan Coultas, a sixth-round draft pick from the University of California at Davis. The 6-foot-3 Coultas batted .337 in college this season before an injury limited him to pinch running. So far, Grant Posnans, who hit .343 at West Virginia University, has been playing short. He can also play second. Posnans, who is also 6-foot-3, bails from Carnegie, Pa.

Why and Because (outfield)

For the Cyclones, left fielder Dante Brinkley has been outstanding. Why? Because he's hitting .385 with a double, triple and home run, and Dante's an inferno on the bases, having swiped three. Also seeing time in left is Caleb Stewart, a native Kentuckian from the University of Kentucky.

Watts' He's in center. Derran, a Cyclone in 2003, is on an injury rehab assignment and Watts has been lighting up the pitchers, hitting .385. Also playing center field will be Corey Coles. "C.C." hit only .167 in a brief time with Brooklyn last year, but he hit .333 at Kingsport. A former outfielder and relief pitcher at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, Coles is a speedy guy. Also in the outfield mix is Kyle Brown, out of LeMoyne College.

In right field is Ambrosio Concepcion, from the Dominican Republic. He has all the tools, and outstanding potential. Coincidentally, Ambrosio is also the name of a man who led the people of Gaul against Julius Caesar — they both have great arms.

Today (catcher)

The Cyclones have three receivers: Stacey Bennett hit .216 for Brooklyn last season. Danilo Reynoso was in Brooklyn in 2002, playing in two games. There is the Cyclones' fourth-round draft pick, Aaron Hathaway, from the University of Washington.

Hathaway was voted to the NCAA Regional all-tournament team for three straight seasons. He hit .317 in the regular season. Hathaway is related to Anne Hathaway, not the beautiful, young, Brooklyn-born actress, but the Stratford, England-born, wife of William Shakespeare.

Despite this writer's being a distant relative of Aaron Hathaway, he will receive no favorable treatment. After all, it's performance that should count, for the play's the thing.

Tomorrow (pitcher)

That's when we'll tell you what the Cyclones' hurlers. Actually, it will be next week.

OPENER...

Continued from page 1

Brinkley led off the bottom of the first with a broken-bat single to right before Derran Watts dropped down a sacrifice bunt, moving him to second. Ambrosio Concepcion's single to left put runners on first and third for Davidson, who rocketed the first pitch he saw into the left field corner for a double and an RBI.

After Stacey Bennett popped out, Rios doubled to the gap in left-center, scoring two runs and putting the Clones up 3-0.

Watts put his team up by four in the third — all by himself. After singling to left-center, he promptly stole second. After Concepcion fied out — and with Davidson bunting — Watts took off for third, and the catcher's throw sailed into left field, allowing the speedy center fielder to score.

Starting pitcher Ivan Maldonado (1-0) didn't give up a hit until the fourth inning, when Hudson Valley finally broke through with two runs.

Maldonado pitched into the sixth when, after giving up one more run, Celso Rondon was brought in with two outs. Rondon got out of the inning and gave up just one hit in his two-and-one-third innings, passing the baton to Cyclones closer Carlos Muni, who pitched a perfect ninth for his third save of the year.

In the first of what they hope will be many such endings, the crowd went home happy.

By Ed Shakespeare

The Brooklyn Papers

At Keyspan Park, the party is over for Marty.

Marty Haber, known to Cyclones fans as "Party Marty," has left the Cyclones to pursue a prospective career as a police officer, according to Cyclones spokesman Dave Campanaro.

Marty was a full-time Cyclone ticket account executive by day and the lively on-field master of ceremonies by night.

Haber ran contests, made announcements and interacted with fans for three years. But late last season, he was involved in a controversial incident in the nightly Nathan's Hot Dog Race.

During one race, Haber tackled "Relish," one of the three hot dogs running, preventing her from winning. Relish had to be taken to the hospital as a result of the incident, and Party Marty was not on the field for the next game. In the following game, Haber returned to his normal on-field duties, and he finished the season without any further incident.

Marty was always involved in baseball, from his days playing Little League at Marine Park to his playing for Madison High School to his college career as a pitcher for Hofstra University, and had worked for the Helena Brewers and the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes. His dad, Bill Haber, was the statistician and historian for the Topps Baseball Card Company. Bill Haber also was one of five founding members of the Society for

Marty "Party Marty" Haber has left the Cyclones to become a police officer, according to team officials.

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American Baseball Research, known as SABR.

As Party Marty, Haber had developed quite a following. During the home opener, some fans along the left field line were chanting, "We want Marty!"

"Marty" always wanted to be a police officer, said Campanaro. "He wants to attend the New York Police Department Academy."

Party Marty's on-field duties will be assumed by the "Beach Bums," group of six young male and female entertainers who can be identified by their red "Beach Bum" jerseys.

Welcome back, fans

During the home opener, the Cyclones greeted the fans, signed autographs, posed for photos, and chatted with the early arrivals. Kudos to general manager Steve Cohen and the Cyclones staff for a great idea. It was run just right — it was organized, yet relaxed and fan friendly. There were no tables, no requirement to sign, just a warm, low-key event to let the fans and the Cyclones meet each other. Well done!



Sock hop

The Cyclones have been wearing the old-fashioned high socks — albeit sans stirrups — for all of their games. The team is uniformly in the high socks, and for most home dates and blue when playing on the road, and the look is both traditional and cool. There is a rumor that on Sunday, June 27, the Cyclones will do something special with the socks. Stay tuned.

Fusselle on the town

Warner Fusselle, the Cyclones' radio announcer, has climbed down from his perch in the Cabini Seat and gone Brooklyn. The Southern gentleman and long-time Manhattan resident was sighted recently spinning the Wonder Wheel, riding the Cy-

clone roller coaster, and having a chocolate egg cream in a local diner — some things he'd never done before, even during his three years on the job with the Clones.

Alumni report

At Capital City, Brian Walker has an ERA of 0.00 in seven games. Shane Hawk has an ERA of 2.20. Evan MacLane is 5-2 with a 2.30 ERA. Greg Ramirez is 4-0 with a 1.69 ERA. At Port St. Lucie, Kevin Deaton is 4-1 with a 3.00 ERA. Luz Portobanco is 1-2 with a 2.66 ERA. Score Karmali is 0-2 with a 4.64 ERA. At Binghamton, Jason Scobie is 3-1 with a 2.93 ERA. Blake McKinley is 7-1 with an ERA of 2.87.

At Cap City, Ian Bladegren is hitting .335 with 13 home runs. Shawn Bowman is at .274 with 10 homers. Ryan Harvey is at .351; David Weaver .286.

In St. Lucie, Aaron Baldaris is hitting .292. Jay Caliguri is at .254 with 10 home runs. Ryan Harvey is at .351; David Weaver .286. Blake Whealy .266 with nine homers. Andy Wilson is at .277 with 10 home runs.

At Binghamton, David Bacani is at .319. Justin Haber is at .295 with seven homers. Wayne Lydon is at .264 with 12 stolen bases. Angel Pagan is hitting .315 with 25 steals. Joe Jannetti recently joined the club and is 2 for 4.

Clones top champs to start season

By Ed Shakespeare

The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn 6 Williamsport 3

June 18 at Williamsport

To err is human, to forgive divine. But this "Foutze" quickly gave up a home run.

"He got his changeup too high, one bad pitch, it was three runs, but Alfonso recovered nicely from that," said Cyclones manager Tony Tjerina.

Alfonso then shut the door, and the Clones rallied for three runs in the seventh as Stacey Bennett doubled, Jabe Bergeron was hit by a pitch, and Kyle Brown ran for Bergeron. After a fly-out by Brooklyn shortstop Grant Posnans, an advance by Bennett on third, the comedy of errors began.

Brown stole second, and Bennett scored on an error by the second baseman. Travis Garcia popped up. Wendt walked, and in the big play of the game, a long fly ball by Rios Derran Watts singled and eventually scored on a groundout by Jabe Bergeron.

In the Williamsport fifth, Williams had two men on base with one out when Edgar Alfonzo — son and namesake of the Cy-

clones' first manager — came in to pitch. But this "Foutze" quickly gave up a home run.

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No longer 'Daddy's little girl'

Q: My 9-year-old daughter's body is starting to change, and I feel a little awkward about our relationship. How can I stay close to her?

—A father

That's a sure way to befuddle your daughter.

As a girl enters puberty, it's only natural for her father to feel awkward. Get over the queasiness because your child needs the father-daughter bond now more than ever, experts say.

"Research shows daughters raised with fathers do better in life," says Michael Gurian, author of "The Wonder of Girls: Understanding the Hidden Nature of Our Daughters" (Simon & Schuster, 2003). "It's a better world for daughters when healthy fathers are around."

Children need to take the lead regarding what kind of physical affection they're comfortable with as their bodies change, says Gurian, a father of two girls ages 11 and 14.

"Don't pull away from physical affection," he says. "That kills the bond."

Girls also benefit from a father's perspective and advice on their daughter's life — rituals such as dinner and a movie or a weekly game of tennis. Even a father's expectations about sports, academics and peer groups pro-

vide a way to bond. Gurian says, but remember to explain your rules and consequences. Cheryl Dellasega, PhD, a researcher at Penn State who runs relationship programs for girls, agrees that if a father pushes his budding daughter away, she may question her appeal to males. Girls like to hear Dad's point of view and childhood stories, she says.

"Stay connected," she says. "Dad's the main male source of her self-esteem right now. If Dad pulls away, it gives the daughter a negative message about her self-esteem just when she needs it the most."

Parent-to-Parent

What's so special about dads? "Dads have a way of listening around an activity when a girl is having a problem," says Dellasega, co-author of "Girl Wars: 12 Strategies That Will End Female Bullying" (Simon & Schuster, 2003). "Mothers resonate with emotion, whereas dads are more of a sounding board."

One mother recalls: "I liked to talk with him because he didn't try to preach while he was giving me a lesson. If a father can be available to listen, that's good."

Dads find the teen years especially trying because of sexual issues and the taboo of tattoos. Guy Kelly, head of Dads and Daughters (DADs), addresses this concern more fully in his book by the same name, "Dads and Daughters" (Broadway Books, 2003). The organization's Web site is www.dadsanddaughters.org.

DADs recently commissioned a poll which indicates 74 percent of fathers say their relationship with their daughter is "excellent" or "very good," yet fewer than 50 percent of fathers agree that their "active involvement is vital to her health and well-being."

Kelly sees the answers as a disconnect, and asks, "How can someone be a good father if he believes his involvement isn't vital to his daughter's life?"

"A girl still needs affection and protective attention from her father, even as her body develops," says Kelly, who has twin daughters. "But we have to tune into and respect her body boundaries. She may pull away from a hug today and want to cuddle with you tomorrow. Don't take it personally."

Continue to listen to her, take her seriously and spend dedicated time together, says Kelly. Activities like shooting hoops can help maintain physical contact and promote her sense of body well-being.

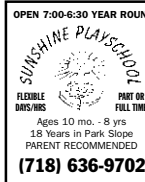
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Notice of Class Action and Proposed Settlement

On March 2, 1995, Medicare beneficiaries, who also had insurance with Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield provided by their New York State-based employers, filed a case against Empire in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. They claimed that Empire did not pay their insurance claims correctly under the Medicare Secondary Payer law requiring Employer Group Health Insurance Plans to pay primary (that is, pay first up to the amount covered on the insurance plan), and Medicare to pay secondary. The Medicare beneficiaries said that they sometimes did not get primary payment, and sometimes did not receive any payments at all because both Medicare and Empire claimed the other should pay first. Empire has denied all of these allegations, but agreed to settle the lawsuit for \$1.3 million (including \$300,000 in costs and attorney's fees) to be distributed to class members and organizations assisting Medicare beneficiaries.

The court certified a class consisting of all Medicare eligible individuals who, during the period between March 2, 1989 and August 22, 1996, incurred medical expenses while working, or at a time their spouses were working, and who were enrolled in group health plans of employers with 20 or more employees covered by the working aged provisions of the Medicare Secondary Payer law, and:

- who had employer group health coverage provided by Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield ("Empire") at the time those medical expenses were incurred, **and**
- who were denied insurance reimbursement by Empire for those medical expenses, or who received less reimbursement than the amounts provided under the groups' primary employer group health insurance plan, based on the fact that they were eligible for Medicare at the time the medical expenses were incurred, **and**
- who have either paid the unreimbursed amounts to their health care providers or whose health care providers have not accepted the amounts reimbursed by insurance and/or Medicare as full payment.

Class members with documentation of loss may be eligible for payments up to \$1,000. Class members without documentation of loss who were incorrectly enrolled in Empire plans with secondary coverage may be eligible for payments up to \$200.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO OBTAIN FORMS, CALL OR WRITE TO:

Claims Administrator, Medicare Rights Center
1460 Broadway, New York, New York 10036
888-542-7771

To make a claim for benefits, you must submit the claim form to the Claims Administrator by **August 30, 2004**, even if you object to the settlement. To file objections to the proposed settlement, or to be excluded from the class, you must submit the objection form or the exclusion form to the Claims Administrator by **August 30, 2004**. The court will exclude anyone who requests exclusion from the class. Any class member may appear by counsel, but this is not required.

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York will hold a hearing at 10 a.m. on **September 28, 2004**, at the Federal Courthouse, 225 Cadman Plaza East, Second Floor, Courtroom 7, Brooklyn, New York to determine if the proposed settlement should be approved. Attendance at the hearing is not required, but you or your counsel may attend and any objections you have will be heard by the court. All persons within the class who do not exclude themselves will be bound by this settlement, or if the settlement is not approved, by any subsequent judgment.

Boro terrier scratches her way thru art world

By Christy Lemire
Associated Press

You think Eddie, the Jack Russell terrier from "Frasier," was talented? Ha! All he had to do was sit there and look cute on cue — and his show isn't even on television anymore.

Tillie — now there's a dog with some real bite.

The 5-year-old Jack Russell is an artist who has had her paintings exhibited in New York, Los Angeles and Europe. She recently opened a gallery and store in Williamsburg, Brooklyn's epicenter of all things artsy and hip.

Her intense, instinctive scratch marks — in red, blue, yellow and black — have drawn comparisons to such abstract artists as Jackson Pollock and Cy Twombly.

You may be wondering how a creature with non-opposable thumbs can accomplish such a hands-on craft. Well, she gets a little help from Bowman Hastie, her human companion, who discovered her talent when she was just 6 months old.

Hastie, a 35-year-old writer, noticed Tillie pawing furiously at one of his notepads one day. "She really had a sense of focus and determination. She was honing in on the surface," he says. "I was amazed by it."

As an experiment, he put a piece of carbon paper in front of her, and faster than you could say Pablo Picasso, an artist was born.

Now Tillie — whose full name is Tillamook Cheddar — has developed her technique over the years.

Hastie takes a piece of pigmented paper and places it face-down on another sheet of paper that's mounted onto a mat board. Tillie then takes this canvas in her mouth and carries it to her workspace, where she nibbles and claws at it feverishly.

Whatever is left on the canvas is her final creation — though she gets so carried away sometimes, she ends up destroying her own work.

At the recent opening of Tillie Ltd., though, she showed



The artistic dog Tillamook Cheddar, or Tillie for short, creates a piece of art during the grand opening of Tillie Ltd., a gallery and store in Williamsburg.

a far more cordial disposition. The 18-pound pup — who has white, wiry fur with brown-and-black markings around her mischievous, dark eyes — was more like a social butterfly.

She trotted between the small, spare, concrete-floored storefront — where her original oil paintings mounted on the walls sell for \$1,000 — and the sidewalk outside, where visitors perused a table piled with T-shirts featuring her designs. She greeted friends and fans by wagging her tail and begging sweetly for the nuggets of cheese for which she's named.

Hastie insists success hasn't gone to Tillie's head. In her downtime, she still takes part in normal canine activities at dog-friendly Prospect Park.

"She likes jumping and catching balls, chasing squirrels," says Hastie, nursing a drink and schmoozing with visitors on the artist's behalf.

"Her process when she's working is a combination of work instinct and play instinct. I don't think she thinks, 'I'm an artist. I'm making art.'"

Others, however, are taking her seriously. Tillie just returned from a trip to Belgium and the Netherlands, where her paintings were on display in solo exhibitions. She also has had her work shown at galleries throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Art dealer Mike Pollack, who has sold some Tillies, expects that her more unusual items may do well, such as the 5-pound bags of dog food that feature a limited edition, green-and-yellow print.

(Those go for \$100, by the way, and are billed as "the world's most expensive dog food.")

"More sophisticated art types have bought her stuff and think it's going to be worth money," says Pollack, who added that Europeans have been far more open to the idea of dog art than Americans.

It makes sense that Tillie's breed is adept at artistic expression. According to the Jack Russell Terrier Club of America, they are primarily hunting dogs. They are bred to dig underground and have the

energy of a big dog in a little dog's body, so they need lots of exercise.

Not everyone is convinced, though. Hastie acknowledges that some people are skeptical.

"People either think it's a spoof or that the persona of a dog artist has been created," he says.

"As far as defending it, I don't concern myself too much."

But Hastie does concern himself with Tillie's profitability. He's still writing — he recently put together a collection of essays called "Confessions of a Dog Artist's Assistant" — but he's looking forward to the day when Tillie is his main source of income.

"I've carried her for five years — that's 35 dog years. She can carry me for the next 35 years."

Tillie declined to comment — and scampered away, her tail in the air, in search of more cheese.

Tillie Ltd. is presented in association with the Green Gallery, 212 Berry St., (718) 599-0844.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 26, 2004

Brooklyn couture

Wedding gown designer opens first boutique in Prospect Heights

By Lisa Selin Davis
for The Brooklyn Papers

Like many Brooklyn brides, when Myrith McCormack was searching for a wedding gown in 1999, she had no choice but to shop at the venerable Kleinfeld's in Bay Ridge.

"It was a beautiful dress, but I still felt like I was settling," she says. "If I'd known then what I know now, I would have designed my own."

So McCormack, 35, did just that. On June 5, she celebrated the grand opening of MyrJan, the first full-service bridal salon in Prospect Heights, showcasing her own dresses along with a few select designers. MyrJan offers wedding gowns, bridesmaid dresses, custom suits and tuxedos, along with all the accessories, and a "soup-to-nuts" wedding planning service, bringing bridal business to central Brooklyn.

Born in Haiti, McCormack said that growing up, hers was the only black family on an all-Italian Carroll Gardens block. Her mother encouraged her drawing, and her Italian neighbors taught her to sew. Though she majored in business at John Dewey High School, fashion was always in her blood, and her multi-ethnic childhood would eventually make its way into her designs.

McCormack was a manicurist at a Vanderbilt Avenue salon in 1991 when an editor at a leading women's magazine stopped in. The editor was so pleased with McCormack's work that she hired her for photo shoots in magazines from Essence to Glamour. This new career funded McCormack's studies in design at the Fashion Institute of Technology and at the New York City College of Technology, where she's finishing a degree in fashion merchandising.

In the two years since her business began (she started in a Harlem storefront before moving back to Brooklyn), McCormack has dressed and coordinated more than 20 weddings, many of her clients referred by her contacts from the magazine world.

McCormack's Haitian background and her fascination with Asian culture have fused in her designs, which mix classic and modern. She often chooses brightly colored silks or Chinese brocade — not the most common bridal materials — for her traditionally shaped dresses.

"These are not your grandma's gowns," she says.

Inspiration for the dresses comes from the glamorous women McCormack grew up watching on television.

"When I think of a dress, I think of the women I loved looking at on TV, like Lucille Ball, Sophia Loren, Diahann Carroll and Ava Gardner."

Her newest collection is inspired by two American icons, Jackie Onassis and Dorothy Dandridge. The Jackie O dresses have cinched waists and a shorter flounce, while the Dandridge dresses are longer and sleeker. McCormack says her designs tend to be classic, while her design partner, 20-year-old Molly Hanna, creates edgier dresses, with deeper necklines and longer trains.



Here comes the bride: Designer Myrith McCormack fastens a Molly Hanna gown on model Victoria Kamara at her Prospect Heights bridal boutique. (At right) A Myrith McCormack bridesmaid dress combines Asian-inspired fabric and vintage Hollywood glamour.

"She's my balance," McCormack says of her partner.

Besides wedding gowns, MyrJan designs a full line of bridesmaid dresses that double as cocktail dresses, in the same array of colors and patterns.

"If you're going to ask someone to spend \$200 on a dress, they should be able to wear it again," says McCormack.

While MyrJan carries high design, they also work with a bride's budget. MyrJan's line runs between \$750 and \$5,000, and they carry a few select designers like Angelina and Mori Lee, costing between \$2,000 and \$8,000 (mere pennies when you consider the \$20,000 price tag of your average Vera Wang).

And McCormack is the consummate wedding professional. She knows the secret to

selling wedding gowns is not the hard sell but patience. It's all about consulting and customer service.

"It's a big investment. I don't expect someone to come into a store, look at a dress and say 'OK. That's it, and I'm leaving.'"

Instead, McCormack expects to spend as many as four or five visits with a patron, up to 20 hours, as they consult their mothers, sisters and checkbooks before selecting a dress. McCormack makes sure they're choosing not just a dress they like, but one that flatters the bride-to-be.

"If it doesn't look good, I don't let them walk out with it," she says.

The 1,000-square-foot showroom with cream and apricot-colored walls occupies the top floor of an old factory on this sleepy block, above a stained-glass store on the first floor and a music studio two doors down. It joins the long-anticipated Prospect Heights renaissance, now well underway.

McCormack has partnered with local businesses in the area such as Reason Florist on Fulton Street and Vanderbilt Avenue's Asase Salon to keep clients in the neighborhood. Local businesses like the card shops and coffee shops have sent clients to MyrJan and



vice versa. For the first time, brides can have a full-on, Brooklyn wedding, right in their own neighborhood. "Come with a dream," says McCormack, "and we'll design a dress for you."

FASHION

MyrJan Bridal Salon is open 11 am-7 pm, Tuesdays through Fridays; 10 am-4 pm, Saturdays; and noon-5 pm, Sundays. Appointments are recommended. MyrJan Bridal Salon is located at 235 St. Marks Ave. at Underhill Avenue in Prospect Heights. For more information, call (718) 623-3548 or visit the Web site at www.myrjan.com.

MUSIC

Forever Young

Celebrate Brooklyn teams up with producer Hal Willner again this year, for a musical tribute to Neil Young on June 26 at 7:30 pm. Among the artists expected to sing Young's material at the Prospect Park Bandshell are Cat Power, Ron Sexsmith, Iron and Wine, Jane Siberry (pictured), Antony, The Be Good Tanyas, Jenni Muldaur, Bonfire Madison, Joan Wasser and Stan Ridgway.

Celebrate Brooklyn's Jack Walsh hints at even more can't-yet-be-named surprise guest stars.

Last summer, Willner, who also arranges the sketch music and adaptations for "Saturday Night Live" and was formerly the music producer for NBC's "Night Music," helmed a memorable homage to Leonard Cohen at the bandshell. This year's Neil Young revue promises to be just as entertaining.

The bandshell is located in Prospect Park, enter at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street. Suggested admission is \$3. For more information, call (718) 855-7882 ext. 45 or visit www.celebratebrooklyn.org.

CINEMA

Born to eat

Graphic documentaries have been known to make viewers lose their appetites, but on Thursday BAMcinematek will screen a film that is guaranteed to produce nausea — and a few laughs.

The documentary "Crazy Legs Conti: Zen and the Art of Competitive Eating," opens with an impressive Conti, an East Village window washer and occasional nude model for art classes, looking on at the annual hot dog eating contest in Coney Island and follows him as he puts his own foot in the door of the competitive eating world by consuming 34-dozen oysters in New Orleans. Conti (pictured at right) eats his way up the ladder of success, aspiring to one day compete in Coney Island's gastrontestinal endurance test, which he claims is "the Tour de France of competitive eating." (If you like the film, don't miss this year's hot dog contest at Nathan's in Coney Island on July 4.)

Directed by Danielle Franco, of Williamsburg, and Chris Kennedy, of Manhattan, the film will be screened at BAMcinematek (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene) on July 1 at 6:45 pm. A panel discussion with Conti, representatives from the International Federation of Competitive Eating and special guest eaters will follow the screening.

Tickets are \$10, \$7 students 25 and younger, seniors and children under 12. For tickets, call (718) 777-FILM or go to www.bam.org. For more information, call (718) 636-4100. — Lisa J. Curtis

PARADE

King Mob



Musician Moby and singer-actress Theo, of the Lunachicks, will be the King Neptune and Queen Mermaid leading this year's Mermaid Parade starting at 2 pm on Saturday, June 26.

The floats, filled with sequined, scantily clad mermen, mermaids (like the one at left) and the occasional pirate assemblage at Surf Avenue and West 10th Street in Coney Island, then march to West 16th Street and back again.

For information on how to participate in the parade, call (718) 372-5159 or visit www.coneyisland.com. This event is free and open to the public and will take place rain or shine.

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Baku Palace

2001 Ennors Ave. at Ocean Avenue, (718) 615-0700, www.bakupalace.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10.90-\$28.90.

Named after the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku Palace offers a vast selection of traditional Russian-style dishes with a French flair prepared by chef Jak Les Limpere, a French culinary master. The menu features "Escargot Burgundy" topped with melted cheese and butter and an eel salad with red caviar and soybean sauce. The dining area is as expansive as the menu with more than 500 seats on two floors and a two-level outdoor cafe overlooking the bay. Owners Michael Davidoff and Alexander Abramovich also offer live folk music Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings where diners can hear singers from Russia, Italy and France belt out tunes in their native languages. Shows start at 9:30 pm. Open daily.

Istanbul Restaurant

1715 Ennors Ave. at Sheepshead Bay Road, (718) 368-3587, www.istanbulrestaurantny.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.50-\$17.

This cozy Turkish restaurant with tiled arcades and charming folk costumes on the walls offers some of the best — if not most unique — kebabs in the borough. The menu boasts an eclectic sampling of regional dishes prepared by chef Dogan Atas such as the "Adana Kebab," a ground lamb kebab flavored with bell peppers and paprika, popular in southern Turkey. Owners Dogan and Rita Atas recommend the Turkish-style pizza, called "pide," a slender, boat-shaped crust baked with meat and vegetable toppings, or the grape leaves stuffed with lamb meat and Turkish white rice. A sidewalk cafe overlooking the bay allows diners to enjoy the afternoon sipping Turkish coffee, which many locals do. Open daily.

Clemente's Maryland Crabhouse

at the Vince Marina, 3939 Ennors Ave. at Kipp Street, (718) 646-7273, www.clementes-ny.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$8.95-\$24.95.

With more than 100 seats on the water, many of Clemente's patrons are more likely to dock their boats than park their cars. Visit the new outdoor tiki bar complete with frozen drinks and seven beers on tap. Of course, there's all-you-can-eat crab, along with lobster, salmon, tuna, clams, oysters and mussels. But somewhere along the line, chef Bill Piest must've felt sorry for the diners who don't eat chicken dishes, steaks and burgers to the menu. Did we mention the raw bar? Closed Mondays.

Garden Bay Cafe

1788 Sheepshead Bay Road at Ennors Avenue, (718) 648-2225 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$12.

Smoke billows out the window and the aroma of seared pork and lamb floats down the street from which one can easily watch the skewers rotating on the grill in this quiet Armenian restaurant. Owner Narine Varanian recommends the house specialties, the lula kebabs, a chicken kebab, cooked on a skewer and served with half-inch thick fried potatoes.

As the name suggests, this is a garden cafe. Tucked in the back of the restaurant, far from the clamor of the bustling outdoor, diners will find a true oasis where a gentle waterfall bubbles in the background and Russians chat while sipping on pint-size ales. Open daily.

Il Forno

2902 Ennors Ave. at Nostrand Avenue, (718) 332-6494, www.ilfornorestaurant.com (DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$27.

Watch the boats drift in and out of the bay this summer while dining on the porch of this waterfront cafe which specializes in Italian seafood. The name of the restaurant, which roughly translates to "brick-oven" in Italian, pays homage to the diversity of baked dishes chef Joe Magliolo offers on the menu. This season, owner Angelo Balboa says the restaurant will roll out a new selection of light pasta and seafood dishes, such as farfalle pasta tossed with arugula, shrimp and tomato or the baked branzino, an imported Mediterranean sea bass served with vegetable sides. The portions are generous, but if you're still hungry for dessert, try the

★ = Full review available at



Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



Owner Rita Atas and manager A-Karim Bulut, hold an "Adana Kebab" entree and mixed appetizers at Istanbul Restaurant

Lundy Bros.

1901 Ennors Ave. at Ocean Avenue, (718) 743-0022, www.lundybros.com (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.95-\$48.95. ★

This historic restaurant continues to be a family favorite for Brooklynites, as well as a popular stop for tourists. Originally opened in 1920, the restaurant reopened its doors under new management in 1993. A seafood lover's paradise, Lundy's head chef, Russell Guarnieri, serves up clams, oysters, shrimp, soft-shell crabs and lobster. They also offer a special Shore dinner: a whole lobster, half a roasted chicken, soup or salad, and apple or cherry pie. Brunch is served on Sundays for \$19.95 per person. Plenty of seaside ambience inside and out. Lundy's overlooks Sheepshead Bay with its fishing boats and bustling population. Open daily.

Michael's

2929 Avenue R at Nostrand Avenue, (718) 998-7851, www.michaelsbrooklyn.com (AmEx, Carte Blanche, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$18-\$30. ★

More than 40 years ago, Michael Cacace opened a small pizzeria with three tables and a takeout window. Today, his sons, Fred and John preside over an elegant restaurant in Sheepshead Bay with a spacious dining room and floor-to-ceiling tables. A pianist plays every night on a baby grand.

Chef John Piest's hot seafood antipasto for two includes grilled octopus, calamari, oregano, shrimp scampi, baked clams and mussels marinara. A delicious calamari sauce accompanies juicy rack of lamb. Located on a quiet street, Michael's might be one of Brooklyn's hidden treasures if you hadn't gotten out years ago — mostly from satisfied customers who return from all over the metropolitan area. Michael's pastry shop is located across the street. Closed Mondays.

Randazzo's

1717 Ennors Ave. at E. 21st Street, (718) 615-0010 (Cash only) Entrees: \$7.50-\$30.95.

Since 1970, this fourth generation, family-owned restaurant has been steaming, frying, baking and stewing its claims to perfection. Year round, seafood delights ranging from creamy chowders and bisques to hefty lobsters, plucked fresh from the tank, dominate the menu. From the summer weather warms the bay, Paul Randazzo adds some new dishes to the menu such as soft-shelled crabs, fried calamari and a cold seafood platter, which includes a whole lobster, four oysters, four clams and shrimp cocktail. Randazzo's famous hot and medium sauce is served with plates of calamari, mussels, shrimp, or scungilli, creating a meal that the owner insists is "second to none." Outdoor seating available. Open daily.

Roll-n-Roaster

2901 Ennors Ave. at E. 29th Street and Nostrand Avenue, (718) 769-5831, www.roll-n-roaster.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$3.95-\$6.95.

Despite the walk-thru take-out window and meal on a tray service, Roll-n-Roaster is not your typical fast-food restaurant. Since 1970, this neighborhood favorite owned by Buddy Lamoreaux has been serving up its famous gravy-dipped roast beef sandwiches to locals throughout Brooklyn. But roast beef is not the only item on the menu. These soft Kaiser rolls, churned out by a 100-year-old Brooklyn bakery, can also be topped with chicken cutlets, hamburger or fish fillets. Add a basket of onion rings or French fries smothered in melted Cheese Whiz and complete the Roll-n-Roaster experience by squeezing into one of their canyonside booths to dine under the restaurant's vaulted ceilings while sipping on a glass of lemonade. "We use 1,200 lbs. of lemons per week for our fresh-squeezed lemonade," said manager Ayet Karaz. The expansive dining area and ample seating makes Roll-n-Roaster perfect for children's birthday parties. Open daily.



Bollyfood

Star of India tones down the spice, amps up the flavor

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

One problem that Indian restaurants in some Brooklyn neighborhoods face is diner apprehension — because we've suffered through so many dumbed-down versions of authentic Indian cooking we approach a meal expecting disappointment.

Rather than having our hopes dashed, some of us will travel to restaurants far from our homes that cater to Indian clientele. If it's good enough for them, we reason it's good enough for us.

Deciding what to serve to a non-Indian population and how best to serve it is a conundrum for Indian restaurateurs. If chefs dote out dishes that are suitable for their

own palates, they risk diners finding their cooking intolerably strong and spicy. Star of India, on Fifth Avenue at President Street in Park Slope, has established an admirable middle ground. Lovers of mild flavors and subtle heat will be amply rewarded; those who prefer more dynamic spicing will have options, too, as long as searing heat isn't a prerequisite.

The chef and owner of Star of India is Miah Tazu, who has cooked in the kitchens of Joy India and Kriani in Manhattan. His sons, Khalil and Muzimjan, work the pleasant but non-descript dining room. They wait a respect-

ful few minutes before inquiring, "Do you like that?"

"Yes," was my answer to nearly everything.

I'd say, "Yes," again, to the samosas, which resemble tiny tents made of pastry. In the wrong hands, these appetizers can be as leaden as last week's meatloaf. Tazu's samosas are light and crisp. The vegetarian samosa is filled with tender potatoes, corn kernels and peas. Minced beef and peas make a rewarding savory version. The samosas are delicately performed with just enough garlic and ginger

to enhance the ingredients.

With the appetizers comes a tray with three little dishes of condiments: a bright green sauce of cilantro and garlic; a puddle of fudge-colored tamarind puree; and

chopped onions laced with chilies. A little drizzle of the cilantro sauce (which I wished were hotter), or a few of the spicy, chili-laced onions give the samosas a little kick.

Among the first courses is a banana pakora that belongs on the dessert menu. A couple of slices of banana become the center of a large ball of sweet dough that is then deep-fried.

"Kids love them," Khalil said. I'm not surprised. The pakora are sweet and heavy — like a Dunkin' Donuts hole — not terrible, just pointless.

I had better luck with the curries. Vegetable "shag," a stew of vegetables



Serious about flavor: (Above left) Khalil Rahman, Muzimjan Rahman, Akshay Saurar and Miah Tazu with their Indian dishes crafted with care at Star of India in Park Slope. (Above) The tandoori mixed grill, banana fritters and green salad.

in a lightly spiced sauce, can be as bland as baby food. Tazu's mushroom "shag," a combination of fresh mushrooms and spinach, is especially good.

The mushrooms were firm and plentiful; the spinach fresh and its taste did not get lost in the sauce.

Fluffy basmati rice is served with the entrees — a practice that should be adopted by many Indian restaurateurs who charge extra for rice.

The shrimp curry was almost as good as the delicious ginger curry made with lamb. The shrimp curry built heat slowly. First the sweetness of tomatoes, then the warmth of ginger and cardamom, and finally a little tingle of chili left a warm glow in my mouth. Slivers of fresh ginger strewn atop tender chunks of lamb added a sharp tang to the lamb curry's bright, complex sauce.

The vindaloo, considered the spiciest of Indian dishes, was a one-note affair. Order the chicken vindaloo, and you'll receive a dish that tastes like and resembles Campbell's tomato soup but with less personality. The pakora are sweet and heavy — like a Dunkin' Donuts hole — not terrible, just pointless.

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Art by the slice

Brides-to-be listen up! Ruth Seidler, a former art conservator, has taken her considerable talent and started her own bakery, JollyBe, in Park Slope

where she creates the most exquisite made-to-order cakes you're likely to find anywhere.

Sure she can sculpt roses and cascading tendrils of forget-me-nots, but so can any baker with a piping bag. Seidler's forte is creating cakes inspired by Persian tiles with all the gorgeous swirling floral motifs one associates with ceramic work. Chinese embroidery, the Art Nouveau period, and the ornate stained glass

works of Louis Tiffany are also modern glass pieces of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Under the glamorous frostings, Seidler offers moist golden cake layers, tiers of hazelnut or rich,



dark chocolate devil's food cake, but if a bride-to-be dreams of green tea or coconut she'll bake those too. Fillings include the classic buttercream, fresh fruit, flavored whipped cream, marzipan and dacquoise, a chewy baked meringue with nuts. Several vegan and non-dairy varieties are available.

JollyBe Bakery accepts cash and checks only. Prices begin at \$7 per slice for an 8-inch cake. Tiered cakes that serve 150 guests run as high as \$1,200 or more.

To see more photos of Seidler's cakes, log onto www.jollybebakery.com. For more information or an appointment, call (718) 965-1651 from 9 am to 6 pm or email jollybe@prodigy.net.

— Tina Barry

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Team player

Cobble Hill dancer talks about life behind-the-scenes at NYC Ballet

By Kevin Filippski
for The Brooklyn Papers

Dancing with the New York City Ballet is a dream come true for Sean Suozzi. "It's always been something I wanted to do, and I got to dance a lot," the 23-year-old Cobble Hill resident explained between rehearsals at Lincoln Center.

"I started dancing when I was 7 years old, in Connecticut, where I'm from," said Suozzi. "My sister was taking classes and I would go with my mother when she went to pick her up, and my mother could tell that I was interested. So she asked me if I wanted to start dancing, and I said I did."

As a member of the Corps de Ballet, Suozzi is part of a close-knit ensemble that could be considered the unsung hero of the company — the members of the corps don't get as many chances to individually shine as do the principal dancers, but they are the backbone. Performance after performance, throughout the season, the Corps de Ballet does the unheralded work that true dance aficionados appreciate as much as they do the stellar soloists.

Suozzi's hard work intensifies throughout the City Ballet's season, a season broken into two parts since it shares the State Theater with New York City Opera. After the opera's fall season ends, the ballet performs

from December through February, after the opera's spring season ends, the ballet performs from April through the end of June. New York City Ballet holds its summer residency at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in August.

"Each day starts with class in the morning, then rehearsal pretty much goes all day long," said Suozzi, who joined the company in 2000 after attending City Ballet's school for a year. "Then there's a performance at night [and matinees on Saturday and Sunday]. Since we're doing so many ballets, we're learning the new dances a week or two before each performance. So we're basically performing and rehearsing and learning new ballets. I pretty much dance every night."

This season, Suozzi's workload has been, as he notes,

DANCE

The New York City Ballet performs at the New York State Theater at Lincoln Center through June 27. The program on Saturday, June 26 at 2 p.m. includes *Grise Polka*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Walse Fantaisie*, *Opus 19* and at 8 p.m.: *Circus Polka*, *Concerto for Two Solo Pianos* and *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*. On Sunday, June 27, at 3 p.m., the program includes: *Coriège*, *Hongrois*, *Stravinsky Violin Concerto* and *Tchaikovsky Suite No. 3*. Tickets are \$32-\$70, with \$10 student rush tickets available. For more information, visit www.nycballet.com.

"more concentrated and heavier than usual" because City Ballet has been celebrating the centenary of the birth of George Balanchine, the choreographic genius whose groundbreaking work with the company put him



Esprit de Corps: Andres Vayette, Ashley Boudier and Sean Suozzi in New York City Ballet's production of "Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2." Suozzi (at left) will perform the "Stravinsky Violin Concerto" this weekend.

— and City Ballet — on the map many years ago.

For the "Balanchine 100" celebration, the company is performing some 50 dances choreographed by the master himself.

"We're doing about 15 ballets more than we do in a typical season," Suozzi says. "The programs always have three or four ballets on them, and each ballet would usually be performed four or five times, but this season, because there are so many more ballets to do, we'll perform each dance only three times."

In a season filled with so many masterpieces of movement and music, Suozzi definitely has his personal preferences.

"I'm really looking forward to the 'Stravinsky Violin Concerto' [June 26 and 27], which is one of my all-time favorites. The high-tech set is the stage for Mark Morris' latest dance, 'Violet Cavern,' which premiered at BAM on June 8. This dance could be described as geo-

logic and the choreography go really well together; it's just a lot of fun."

Suozzi also had the chance to perform in other ballets for the first time this season, such as "Union Jack" in May.

"That's something I wanted to do, since I had always liked it when I saw others do it, and this season was the first time I had the chance to do it."

"Being a student at the school before joining the company, I'd see all these ballets performed, so it was always a dream of mine [to perform them]," he said. "When you're a student, you always have your favorites that you hope you can do when you're part of the company."

Suozzi's true coup is that he's performed all three world-premiere dances that City Ballet unveiled this spring: In May, there was City Ballet Resident Choreographer

Christopher Wheeldon's ballet set to music by Scottish composer James MacMillan; June 2 saw the first performance of "Chichester Psalms," choreographed by Peter Martins to Leonard Bernstein's music; and on June 18, Russian Boris Eifman's new work, "Musagete."

Unfortunately, before he can discuss these new dances, Suozzi has to end the interview so he can run off to a costume fitting for his next rehearsal.

When asked if this nonstop work takes a mental and physical toll, he acknowledged as much, then demurred. "Yes, it's hard, but we do have each other," he said. "When we come from the school together, then are in the company together, we become a good support group for each other."

So when is it time to relax? "Mondays, it's dark," he said. "That's our day off."

On the Mark

Mark Morris Dance Group meets challenging music with a vengeance

By Lori Ortiz
for The Brooklyn Papers

Fifteen dancers enter and exit through exposed lighting towers standing at the side of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's opera house stage like wings. Glowing vertical panels hang above, marked with designer Stephen Hendee's ruled geometry. The high-tech set is the stage for Mark Morris' latest dance, "Violet Cavern," which premiered at BAM on June 8. This dance could be described as geo-

logic with its passages of very slow movement, and in the grandiose feeling of the music and of the dance — a confluent inspiration. The triumphant epic features lyrical details in strains of tinkling piano and softly screaming strings. Pianist Ethan Iverson, former music director of the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG), continues the relationship now: he composed the score of "Violet Cavern." The new creation was only weeks ago titled "Seven Visions" for the seven movements of Iverson's score. De-

See MORRIS on page 14



'Violet' hour: The Mark Morris Dance Group premiered "Violet Cavern" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music Opera House this month.

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Monsters in law

Comic book artist Batton Lash earns praise for his otherworldly Court Street legal team

By Chiara V. Cowan
for The Brooklyn Papers

Inside an eerie office building at the fictional 13 Court St. in Downtown Brooklyn two of its most prestigious lawyers are celebrating their silver anniversary. But these mal-practice lawyers are unlike any of the other legal eagles hastily shuffling in and out of the court-houses daily; and their clients are unlike any clients ever seen on Brooklyn's notoriously litigious street.

Welcome to the offices of Wolff and Byrd, Counselors of the Macabre in the comic book series "Supernatural Law."

It was 25 years ago that comic book artist Batton Lash created Wolff and Byrd in a strip for The Brooklyn Papers. At the time, Lash spent afternoons delivering The Brooklyn Papers along Court Street between Atlantic Avenue and Montague Street. He entered a building, rode the elevator to the top floor and worked his delivery route down. The buildings were gothic and strangely silent. Behind each frosted glass door, lawyers labored.

"As I slid two papers under each door, I was thinking, 'What if Dr. Frankenstein is being sued for malpractice? Where can he go?'" Lash explained to GO Brooklyn in a phone interview from his home in San Diego, Calif.

"If there was a practice, it'd be in Brooklyn, off to the side of Manhattan," said Lash. "People kind of overlook Brooklyn, so this would be the perfect spot."

Wolff and Byrd, specializing in supernatural law, began servicing werewolves, demons and monsters in September 1979. Unlike regular lawyers, they hold client meetings and courtroom procedures throughout the night. Some clients enter from the roof, while others shock exiting daytime employees at the building's front entrance.

"It's about two attorneys who represent the supernatural and the supernaturally af-



Law suits him: Artist Batton Lash (above) creates comic books about Downtown Brooklyn lawyers who represent werewolves, demons and monsters.

flicted," said Lash. "Who's scarier than Dracula? His attorneys."

Lash's list of characters is endless, and curiously entertaining. There is a demon from Hell who finally finds time to read the Bible, prompting him to become born again, only to be banned from all churches. There is the monster carrying Satan's baby, unable to have an abortion, a parody of Roe vs. Wade and "Rosemary's Baby." There is the struggle between a shy werewolf son and his aggressive werewolf father. Religion and relationships — ordinary issues for extraordinary characters.

Lash, 50, who was born and raised in Marine Park, says comics intrigued him ever since he was a child. Growing up, he poured over the exploits of characters ranging from Superman to Archie to Little Lulu to those in underground comics. He even enjoyed editorial cartoons as a child.

"There's just something about drawings and characters that allows for over-the-top

statements," said Lash.

After graduating James Madison High School, in Midwood, Lash went on to study cartooning at the School of Visual Arts (SVA) in Manhattan. Because the comic industry is such a difficult field to break into, Lash said he spent some time in the writing, film and construction industries before returning to the world of comics.

"It's gloriously low-tech," said Lash. "All you need is a pencil and paper and your imagination. Comics are an inexpensive way to get wild ideas out there."

Since his return, his career has soared. In 1994, Lash turned his Wolff and Byrd strip into a comic book series, which he and his wife, Jackie Estrada, co-publish at Exhibit A Press. (Lash and Estrada founded the publishing company 10 years ago.) The comic book's 40th issue hit stands last month, and was a tribute to Brooklyn and Court Street.

The comic book and its characters are a spoof on many things including human flaws, lawyers and law jargon.

As far as Lash is concerned, however, the law aspect is only the backdrop of the Wolff and Byrd series. What most interests the artist is characterization. He uses his characters and their situations to expose society's weaknesses.

"He uses his comic book as a vehicle for social satire," said Mitch Berger, a lawyer and Lash's friend and legal adviser. "In that respect, I think it's brilliant."

Lash even pokes fun at his own personality in the series.

"Wolff and Byrd are the yin and yang of me," he said.

The no-nonsense, independent Wolff, is Lash's idea of the perfect woman, whereas Byrd is more of a softy and a pushover.

"I draw on those two sides of my personality as I write," he added.

Besides writing the Wolff and Byrd strip for more than 20 years, Lash also writes for "The Simpson's" creator Matt Groening's



publishing company, Bongo Comics. He wrote the comic "Radioactive Man" for Bongo, a spin-off of Bart Simpson's favorite cartoon character in the show, adapting it to "The Simpson's" style of writing and graphic art. In 1998, Lash produced an eponymous spin-off of Wolff and Byrd's spunky legal secretary, Mavis, which he publishes once a year.

"Mavis's personality is based largely on

my younger sister," said Lash. "Mavis is the self-proclaimed world's greatest secretary, a phenomenon of which I learned while working at The Brooklyn Papers."

In 2002, Lash's "Radioactive Man" won an Eisner award for Best Humor Title. Lash said writer and artist Will Eisner, a legend in the comic industry noted for creating "The Spirit," is his role model.

This Saturday, Lash — and Wolff and

COMICS

Comic book author Batton Lash will have a booth at The Museum of Cartoon and Comic Art's Third Annual MoCCA Art Festival June 26-27 from 10 am to 6 pm, at the Push Building (at 25th and 1st St. at Houston Street in lower Manhattan). Tickets are \$7/advance \$12/weekend.

The 17th Annual Harvey Awards will be held Saturday, June 26, at 8 pm. Tickets are \$60. Casual business attire is suggested. For more information, call (212) 254-3511.

Byrd — are up for three Harvey awards to be presented at The Museum of Cartoon and Comic Art's 17th annual awards gala in Manhattan: Best Continuing Series, Special Award for Humor and Best Single Issue (for issue 38). The Harvey awards are named for Harvey Kurtzman, one of Lash's original creators of "Mad" magazine.

Lash, however, has never studied law, so he counts on Berger to explain lawyer lingo in simpler terms. Since his characters have to talk and think like lawyers, Lash values his friend Berger's input.

"I'll make sure that the proper legal actions are taking place," said Berger. "The advice from someone with a legal education and experience gives his plots plausibility."

Look for Wolff and Byrd to take a step back in time to the days of law school and Supernatural 101 at Kings County Law School (based on Brooklyn Law School) in the upcoming issue.

In the meantime, Lash continues creating. He has lists of ideas from years past to which he constantly adds new ones. Each issue takes about eight weeks to complete, the comic book is published about six times per year. Although the ideas and art are Lash's creations, he has two assistants who help him with background materials and inking.

Estrada, Lash's wife of 10 years, is also essential in the production of each piece of his work.

"Jackie is very organized, so she keeps me on schedule," said Lash. "She's an editor, so she cleans up my twisted syntax. She's also a great sounding board, with a terrific sense of humor."

In his unique, quirky world, Lash continues to produce witty and multifaceted sketches. He hopes to attract female readers because of the depth of his female characters such as "Supernatural Law" lawyer Alanna Wolff and her secretary Mavis. And of course, he also looks forward to the upcoming comic awards.

"Right now though," Lash said, "I'm just trying to make the world safer for comic books."

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Where to GO

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

SAT, JUNE 26

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

MERMAID PARADE: Musicians Moby and actress Thora will be the King Neptune and Queen Mermaid leading this year's Mermaid Parade which begins at Surf Avenue and West 10th Street (then travels to West 16th Street), 2 p.m. (718) 372-5159. Free.

FAMILY DAY: Brooklyn Cyclones host a family day. Ribbon cutting, player autographs, baseball clinic, face painting, carnival games, live music and more. \$50. \$25 children. \$100 for family of four. 11 am to 3 p.m. Parade Grounds, Fields 3 and 4. (718) 962-8945.

WILLIAMSBURG WALK: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a walk. "Williamsburg: Art and Culture Crossroads." Learn about the neighborhood's three main cultures: Dominican, Haitian and hip urban artists. \$11. \$8 students and seniors. 1 p.m. Meet at Marcy Avenue station on Broadway. (718) 768-8500.

PIER SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition presents last weekend of its art show featuring 1000 works of art by over 300 emerging artists. Noon to 6 p.m. Also, celebration of African-American art and culture. Red Hook Pier, 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

SHOW HOUSE: Bridge Street Development Corporation hosts its fourth annual show house in Stuyvesant Heights historic district. \$15. Noon to 8 p.m. 380 Lewis Ave. (718) 573-6893.

MOONLIGHT TOUR: Bring a flashlight and enjoy Green-Wood cemetery at night. Jeff Richman leads. \$15, \$10 members. 8:15 p.m. Meet at main entrance, 25th Street and Fifth Avenue. (718) 768-7200.

PERFORMANCE

GREENMARKET: Fort Greene Market presents southern comfort music featuring Jeff Nowell's New Trad Octet. 1 p.m. Washington Park and DeKalb Avenue entrance to park.

MUSIC: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents music from the Balkans. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Hal Wilner's Neil Young Project features Cat Power, Ron Sexsmith, Jon and Wine, Jane Siberry and others. \$3. 7:30 p.m. Prospect Park Bandshell. (718) 855-7882.

CONCERT UNDER THE STARS: Kingsborough Community College hosts a concert featuring music from Broadway. 8 p.m. End of Oriental Boulevard. (718) 366-5051. Free.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Gallery Players hosts its seventh annual festival of premiering plays by tri-state area playwrights. Program includes "A Funeral For A Friend," "Goddess of Fire," "Hog Kils," "More," \$15, \$12, 8 p.m. Also, "The Fall of the House of Usher," a staged reading. 3 p.m. Free. 199 14th St. (718) 956-0547.

MET IN THE PARK: Outdoor concert by Metropolitan Opera. Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." 8 p.m. Marine Park. (212) 362-6000. Free.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: "The Subway Symphony," a new musical. \$15, 8 p.m. 26 Willow Pl. (718) 237-2552.

NEST: presents work-in-progress "Dead Man Dancing Lucius." \$10. 8 p.m. 88 Front St. (212) 375-0186.

ONE ARM RED: presents Edward Murray's "Rial Stationer." Plot is an exploration of de-stigmatization in the 21st century. \$15. 8 p.m. 45 Main St. (718) 797-0046.

WATERLOO BRIDGE THEATER: presents the comedy by Shakespeare: "Love's Labour's Lost," set in the year 2004. \$15, \$10 students. 8 p.m. 475 Third Ave. Reservations suggested. (418) 489-5459.

JAM PROVE: at Brooklyn Lycium. \$5. 9 p.m. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 687-4816.

COMEDY: Brooklyn Brew-He-Ha at The Boudoir Bar. \$5 admission and two drink minimum. 9:30 p.m. 273 Smith St. (718) 624-8878.

MUCH LIGHT MAKES THE BABY GO BLIND (30 plays in 60 minutes). \$15 online (www.gowanus.com) or \$9 plus the roll of a single six-sided die. 11:30 p.m. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 670-7238.

CHILDREN

AQUARIUM: "Extreme Colors of the Caribbean." Learn about corals, anemones, plant life, fish, sea horses and other creatures of the sea. Music, storytelling, arts and crafts. \$11. \$7 children ages 2 to 12 and seniors. 10 am to 5 p.m. West 45th St. (718) 265-3454.

ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum invites kids to "Inside and Outside." \$6, \$3 seniors and students, free for children under 12. 11 am and 2 p.m. Also, stories and art at 4 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 625-5000.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Kids are invited to take part in a picture book reading. 11 am. 106 Court St. (718) 464-4158. Free.

FAMILYTIME SERIES: Ryan Repertory Company presents "The Adventures of Peter Rabbit and His Friends." \$10. \$8 children under 5 years. Noon, Harry Warren Theater, 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4800.

TRANSIT WORKSHOP: NY Transit Museum offers a workshop "Miles of Tile." Kids are invited to create a mosaic using ceramic tiles and learn about the intricate art of mosaic making. Suggested for ages 4 to 16 years. \$3. 1 p.m. Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street. (718) 694-1867.

OTHER

CAR WASH: Benefactor Volunteer Ambulance Service. 9 am to 3 p.m. 8161 West Utrecht Ave. (718) 335-1774.

BOULIQUE SALE: Good Shepherd Guild offers a variety of merchandise for sale. Noon to 4 p.m. 1420 Fourth Ave. (718) 745-8520.

SALE: at Sunset Park Community Church. 10 am to 3 p.m. 5324 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-4944.

SOUL FOOD COOK-OFF: WYCA of Brooklyn hosts its first annual event. Bring a leafy, healthy soul food dish. First prize \$100 and one-year gym membership to the Y. 11 am to 3 p.m. 30 Third Ave. (718) 775-1190.

BOOK SIGNING: Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant, authors of "Better Than I Know Myself," read at 4W Circle Books. (718) 675-4500.

MORTGAGE TALK: CitiMortgage hosts a first-time homebuyers workshop. 2 p.m. 855 Flatbush Ave. (866) 241-5122. Free.

'QUEER GUY: Carson Kressley of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" signs and reads from his book. 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mid Urban Plaza, 157 Fifth Ave. (718) 398-2100. Free.

EXHIBIT: Trinity Lutheran Church presents "Shades of Color," an art exhibit showcasing works of several artists. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Corner of 46th Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 344-0603.

RECEPTION: Roger Collection presents "Encounters," featuring painting, photography, furniture, textiles and sculpture. 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. 111 Grand St. (718) 388-5022. Free.

SINGLES EVENING: 50's Immigrant Evangelical Free Church. \$5 donation. 7 p.m. Sixth Avenue and 66th Street. (718) 834-0029.

SOCK HOP: at Monte Allen's Karahall Karate. \$10 includes one drink. 8 p.m. 555 Fifth Ave. (718) 965-8410.

MOVIE NIGHT: Classic Film "Can-Can" (1960). 8:30 p.m. Community Garden, corner of South Avenue and 15th Street. Free.

SUN, JUNE 27

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

DUMBO WALK: Brooklyn Center for Urban Environment walks around Fulton Ferry Landing and to artist's workshops. \$11. \$8 seniors and students. Meet at High Street & station. Cadman Plaza West near Midkiff Street. (718) 768-8500.

MEDWOOD MARDI GRAS: Annual street fair. Games, music, prizes, desserts, amusement rides and more. 10 am to 6 p.m. Avenue M from 13th Street to Queens Avenue. (718) 639-3011.

CEMETERY TOUR: Walking tour of Evergreen Cemetery. 11 am. Meet on corner of Bushwick Avenue and Conway Street. (718) 455-5300. Free.

SMITH STREET FAIR: Crafts, merchandise, food and rides. 11 am to 6 p.m. Smith Street from Atlantic Avenue. (718) 852-0328.

BROOKLYN BASEBALL: Brooklyn Historical Society explores Green-Wood Cemetery, where the town pays visits to some baseball pioneers including Henry Chadwick, James Creighton and Charles Ebbetts. \$15, \$10 \$5 children. 2 p.m. Meet at stone entrance gates, 18th Avenue and 25th Street. (718) 224-1111.

PIER SHOW: Last chance to see Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition art show featuring 1000 works of art by over 300 emerging artists. Also, silent auction. Closing celebration with The Cilla McVie Motion Sculpture Project. Noon to 6 p.m. Red Hook Pier, 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

FAIRS TO REMEMBER: Brooklyn Transit Museum hosts a tour to two world fair sites. Subway historian Joe Cunningham leads. \$20, \$15 members. Noon. Reservations required. Call (718) 694-1867.

SHOW HOUSE: Noon to 8 p.m. See Sat., June 26.

PERFORMANCE

CARIBBEAN FEST: Live music, marketplace, crafts, and more. Sponsored by Video Center of Arts Performances in Theaters. Noon to 6 p.m. Nethermead, Prospect Park. (718) 622-7035.



Authors Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant, a Brooklyn native, read from their new novel "Better Than I Know Myself" at 4W Circle Books on June 26.

338-9120. Free.

CONCERT: The Language of Three performs acoustic music. \$10. 4 p.m. Old First Reformed Church, Seventh Avenue and Carroll Street. (718) 455-8265.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: presents Catalina's Soggetti's Eastern Music. \$6. 9:30 pm to 11 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 785-5186.

CHILDREN

FAMILY PROGRAM: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment offers hands-on activities for the entire family. Noon to 5 p.m. Tennis House, Prospect Park. (718) 768-8500, ext. 208. Free.

STREET FARM: Wyckoff Farm-house offers a talk about Brooklyn's farming history. 2 p.m. 5816 Clarendon Road. (718) 629-5400. Free.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents "Alcohol" Kids are invited to learn about Hula and Tahitian hip dancing. \$4. 3 p.m. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

OTHER

FLEA MARKET: at Congregation Sons of Israel. 10 am to 4 p.m. 2115 Benson Ave. (718) 974-4820.

OCULARS CINEMA: Open Zone presents new works by local film and video makers. \$7. 7 p.m. Galapagos Art Space. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 785-5186.

FREDDY'S BACKROOM: Trivia night. No cover. Call for time. 485 Dean St. (718) 622-7035.

MON, JUNE 28

TEEN CLASS: Brooklyn Arts Exchange invites teens ages 13 to 17 to participate in a dance or theater program. "Musical Theater Intensive for the Hip-Hop Generation" meets 10 am to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday, through July 1. Also, week-long dance lab "Trade-Out." 10 am to 4 p.m. Call. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0016.

LIBRARY EVENT: Brooklyn Public Library, Bay Ridge branch, presents Mikhail Koltsovsky in an opera recital. 2 p.m. 723 Ridge Boulevard. (718) 748-1709. Free.

LECTURE: Brooklyn Parents for Peace presents Salma Yagoub. Chairperson of the Stop the War Coalition in Birmingham, England. 7 p.m. Al-Noor School. 675 Fourth Ave. (718) 624-5921. Free.

GALAPAGOS: Reading by author Mark Dove. "American Guilt: Inside U.S. Immigration Prisons." No cover. 8 p.m. Also, burlesque. No cover. 9:30 pm to 1 am. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 785-5186.

FAMILYTIME SERIES: Ryan Repertory Company presents "The Adventures of Peter Rabbit and His Friends." \$10. \$8 children under 5 years. 8 p.m. Harry Warren Theater. 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4800.

JEWISH LEARNING: The David Berg Lecture Series offers a course in "Did Adam Have Parents?" Today's topic: "Abrupt Morphological Changes." 8 pm to 9 pm. Congregation Eretz Avraham, 117 Remsen St. (718) 296-4840. Free.

CRASH SPLASH: Swim class begins at YWCA of Brook-lyn. \$15 for eight sessions. Call. 30 Third Ave. (718) 875-1190.

TUES, JUNE 29

OPERA: Begins Opera Company hosts a performance. 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, New Utrecht branch, 86th Street and Bay 17th Street. (718) 376-6185. Free.

ROSE MONTHE: Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a class in rose pomander-making. \$6. Not members. \$59 members. 2 pm to 9 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7220.

GALAPAGOS: New rock groups. \$6. 7:30 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 785-5186.

FAMILYTIME SERIES: Ryan Repertory Company presents "The Adventures of Peter Rabbit and His Friends." \$10. \$8 children under 5 years. 8 p.m. Harry Warren Theater. 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4800.

CENOPHILES UNIT: BYCB night at Crave. Bring your favorite bottle of wine and sample from other participants. 570 Henry St. Call. (718) 643-9361.

WEDS, JUNE 30

ORGAN CONCERT: at St. Ann and the Holy Trinity Church. 1:10 pm. 157 Montague St. (718) 875-6960. Free.

SAFETY TALK: HSBC Bank offers talk "Safety and Security: How to Protect Yourself and Your Money." Refreshments. 4:30 pm to 6 pm. 200 Montague St. (718) 858-9101. Free.

SUNSET PICNIC: Brooklyn Botanic Garden member picnic. Membership is \$40. 6 pm to 8 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7200.

MUSIC: One World Symphony season finale: "Love, Death and Renewal." Open rehearsal at 8 p.m. \$5. Concert at 8 p.m. \$15, \$10 students and seniors. St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, Montague and Clinton streets. Call. (718) 462-7270.

MOVIES IN THE GARDEN: Loulou Restaurant weekly movie in its garden. Series is focused on first original pictures from a variety of now famous directors. Tonight: "Evil Dead." 8 p.m. 222 DeKalb Ave. of Brooklyn and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1090.

THURS, JULY 1

RHYTHM AND BULE: Summertime soul series with The Soul of John Black and Ellis Hooks. Noon to 2 p.m. Metrotech Commons, corner of Flatbush and Myrtle avenues. (718) 636-4129. Free.

ROOFTOP JAM: Brooklyn Children's Museum presents Animales de Latino America. Ages 6 and up. \$4. free for members. 2 pm to 3 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

SHOW HOUSE: 4 pm to 8 p.m. See Sat., June 26.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Four with Picnic." Today: "Crash Legs Come Zen and the Art of Competitive Eating" (2004). 6:45 pm. O & A with film's subjects and director. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

STORIES IN THE GARDEN: Children and adults hear stories. 7 p.m. Hoyt Street Garden, corner of Hoyt and Atlantic. (718) 237-0145.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: presents The Unity Sessions: A Musical Collision of Roots and Culture featuring Israeli and Arabic hip-hop artists. MCs and DJ's. \$3. 7:30 pm. Prospect Park Bandshell. (718) 855-7882.

SOCIAL DANCING: Evening at Marine Park Jewish Center. Ages 45 plus. \$4 includes light refreshments. 7 pm to 10 pm. 3311 Ave. (718) 891-4209.

FRI, JULY 2

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Rooftop series presents Beat Street 3, with top dance and percussive music. \$4. 4:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

AQUA NIGHTS: NY Aquarium begins a music series. Tonight: 50's night with The Capris and Randy and The Rainbows. \$15, \$8 children 2 to 12 years. 7 p.m. West Endfield Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 265-1514.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind." See Sat., July 3.

SHOW HOUSE: Noon to 8 p.m. See Sat., June 26.

SAT, JULY 3

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIRD WATCHING CRUISE: Guided bird watching tour of the 65-acre Prospect Park Lake aboard electric boat Independence. \$10. \$6 children. Noon to 12:45 pm. Lakeside at Walden Park. (718) 287-3400.

SHOW HOUSE: Noon to 8 p.m. See Sat., June 26.

GARDEN TOUR: Brooklyn Botanic Garden explains how cultures from around the world rely on plants. \$5. \$3 children. 3 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 723-7220.

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in Where to GO, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings after the phone.

PERFORMANCE

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Budweiser Latin Music Series features Bacilos and Rado Mundak. \$3. 7:30 pm. Prospect Park Bandshell. (718) 855-7882.

CONCERT UNDER THE STARS: Kingsborough Community College hosts a concert featuring "American Portrait" music. 8 p.m. End of Oriental Boulevard. (718) 366-5051. Free.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: presents "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind" (30 plays in 60 minutes). \$15 online (www.gowanus.com) or \$9 plus the roll of a single six-sided die. 11:30 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 670-7238.

OTHER

FIRST SATURDAY: Brooklyn Museum hosts its monthly event. Celebration with an all-American program of art, stories, film and music. Highlights include Hawaiian steel guitar band The Moonlighters, dance music from 1950 to 2000, award-winning films from 2002 and 2003. Dance party with live music and refreshments. 5 pm to 11 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 636-5000. Free.

OPENING: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition presents "Chasing Rainbows," an outdoor sculpture exhibit. Live music. Noon to 6 p.m. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, Water Street, Dock Street or Main Street at the East River. (718) 596-2507. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: "Four with Picnic." Today: "Crushing" (1980). \$10. 2 p.m. 4:30 pm, 6:45 pm and 8 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

SUN, JULY 4

Independence Day

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

EARLY BIRD WALK: An Audubon naturalist searches Prospect Park for fledgling birds. 8 am to 10 am. Audubon Center, Prospect Park. (718) 287-3400. Free.

CHILDREN

LEFFERTS HOUSE: Visitors may sign a reproduction of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the day. Create banners and paper hats. 1 pm to 4 pm. Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 769-2622. Free.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: Sunset Park Community Church offers a service "Celebrate America." 11 am. 5324 Fourth Ave. (718) 459-4944.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Four with Picnic." Today: "Scarface" (1983). \$10. 4 pm and 8 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

GALAPAGOS: Run-a-muse film fest. 6 pm to 10:30 pm. 70 North Sixth St. Call. (718) 782-5188.



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It takes a lot of energy to get ahead. It's become part of our daily lives. Imagine how much energy it takes to keep our laptops, cell phones and PDAs charged and ready to do business. With New York's growing economy, New Yorkers will use more energy than they did last summer. That's why Con Edison is investing billions over the next 5 years to keep our system in sync with the growing demand.

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BROOKLYN Nightlife

BAMcafe

30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 534-4100, www.bam.org. June 26: Monet, Marion Saunders, 9 pm, FREE with \$5 food/drink minimum. June 30: "Where Words Sizzle: A Celebration of Urban Word NYC's 2004 Teen Slam Team," 6 pm, \$10 adults, \$5 teens.

Barbes

376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.barbesbrooklyn.com. Sunday: Stephanie Waters, 9 pm, FREE. Monday: David Soul Party with Matt Moran, 8 pm, FREE. June 26: Gerardo, 7 pm, FREE. The 4th St. Nitro, 9 pm, FREE. June 27: Viola Tomasco Brasil/Rugby, 7 pm, FREE. June 29: Elizabeth Kontonou, 9 pm, FREE. July 1: "A Polymath Extravaganza," with Hank Bross, Monica "Lil' Moat" Pessin, Maureen McMillan, John Shute, Mike Weatherly, Alyssa Lantz and Emily Hunter, Hector Mack, 9 pm, FREE. July 2: Jonathan Bae, 7 pm, \$7. The Moonlighters, 9 pm, FREE.

Black Betty

346 Metropolitan Ave. at Hovemann Street in Williamsburg, (718) 599-0243, www.blackbetty.net. Saturday: DJ LP Shalman, 11 pm, FREE. Sunday: Brazilian Beat with DJ Sean Manzana and DJ Greg Cal, 11 pm, FREE. Wednesday: DJ Abalado, 10 pm, FREE. Thursday: The Greenhouse with DJ Monique and DJ Emilee, 10 pm, FREE. Friday: DJ Misha, 11 pm, FREE. June 29: Sonic Boom Project, DJ Bud and Al, 10 pm, FREE.

Boudoir Bar

At East End Ensemble, 273 Smith St. at Sedgwick Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 624-8878, www.eastendensemble.com. Saturday: Comedy night hosted by Rich Duncan, 9:30 pm, \$5 with two drink minimum.

Brooklyn International Society

128 Plimpton St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111, www.brooklyn-history.org.

Freddy's Bar & Backroom

485 Dan St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7035, www.freddysbackroom.com.

Cafe 111

111 Court St. at State Street in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 858-2806, www.cafe111.com. June 26: Jason Lieberman and The Uprising, Sax Adick, 10 pm, FREE. June 27: The Hustlers, June 28: The Hustlers, June 29: The Hustlers, June 30: The Hustlers, July 1: The Hustlers, July 2: The Hustlers, July 3: The Hustlers, July 4: The Hustlers, July 5: The Hustlers, July 6: The Hustlers, July 7: The Hustlers, July 8: The Hustlers, July 9: The Hustlers, July 10: The Hustlers, July 11: The Hustlers, July 12: The Hustlers, July 13: The Hustlers, July 14: The Hustlers, July 15: The Hustlers, July 16: The Hustlers, July 17: The Hustlers, July 18: The Hustlers, July 19: The Hustlers, July 20: The Hustlers, July 21: The Hustlers, July 22: The Hustlers, July 23: The Hustlers, July 24: The Hustlers, July 25: The Hustlers, July 26: The Hustlers, July 27: The Hustlers, July 28: The Hustlers, July 29: The Hustlers, July 30: The Hustlers, July 31: The Hustlers, August 1: The Hustlers, August 2: The Hustlers, August 3: The Hustlers, August 4: The Hustlers, August 5: The Hustlers, August 6: The Hustlers, August 7: The Hustlers, August 8: The Hustlers, August 9: The Hustlers, August 10: The Hustlers, August 11: The Hustlers, August 12: The Hustlers, August 13: The Hustlers, August 14: The Hustlers, August 15: The Hustlers, August 16: The Hustlers, August 17: The Hustlers, August 18: The Hustlers, August 19: The Hustlers, August 20: The Hustlers, August 21: The Hustlers, August 22: The Hustlers, August 23: The Hustlers, August 24: The Hustlers, August 25: The Hustlers, August 26: The Hustlers, August 27: The Hustlers, August 28: The Hustlers, August 29: The Hustlers, August 30: The Hustlers, August 31: The Hustlers, September 1: The Hustlers, September 2: The Hustlers, September 3: The Hustlers, September 4: The Hustlers, September 5: The Hustlers, September 6: The Hustlers, September 7: The Hustlers, September 8: The Hustlers, September 9: The Hustlers, September 10: The Hustlers, September 11: The Hustlers, September 12: The Hustlers, September 13: The Hustlers, September 14: The Hustlers, September 15: The Hustlers, September 16: The Hustlers, September 17: The Hustlers, September 18: The Hustlers, September 19: The Hustlers, September 20: The Hustlers, September 21: The Hustlers, September 22: The Hustlers, September 23: The Hustlers, September 24: The Hustlers, September 25: The Hustlers, September 26: The Hustlers, September 27: The Hustlers, September 28: The Hustlers, September 29: The Hustlers, September 30: The Hustlers, October 1: The Hustlers, October 2: The Hustlers, October 3: The Hustlers, October 4: The Hustlers, October 5: The Hustlers, October 6: The Hustlers, October 7: The Hustlers, October 8: The Hustlers, October 9: The Hustlers, October 10: The Hustlers, October 11: The Hustlers, October 12: The Hustlers, October 13: The Hustlers, October 14: The Hustlers, October 15: The Hustlers, October 16: The Hustlers, October 17: The Hustlers, October 18: The Hustlers, October 19: The Hustlers, October 20: The Hustlers, October 21: The Hustlers, October 22: The Hustlers, October 23: The Hustlers, October 24: The Hustlers, October 25: The Hustlers, October 26: The Hustlers, October 27: The Hustlers, October 28: The Hustlers, October 29: The Hustlers, October 30: The Hustlers, October 31: The Hustlers, November 1: The Hustlers, November 2: The Hustlers, November 3: The Hustlers, November 4: The Hustlers, November 5: The Hustlers, November 6: The Hustlers, November 7: The Hustlers, November 8: The Hustlers, November 9: The Hustlers, November 10: The Hustlers, November 11: The Hustlers, November 12: The Hustlers, November 13: The Hustlers, November 14: The Hustlers, November 15: The Hustlers, November 16: The Hustlers, November 17: The Hustlers, November 18: The Hustlers, November 19: The Hustlers, November 20: The Hustlers, November 21: The Hustlers, November 22: The Hustlers, November 23: The Hustlers, November 24: The Hustlers, November 25: The Hustlers, November 26: The Hustlers, November 27: The Hustlers, November 28: The Hustlers, November 29: The Hustlers, November 30: The Hustlers, December 1: The Hustlers, December 2: The Hustlers, December 3: The Hustlers, December 4: The Hustlers, December 5: The Hustlers, December 6: The Hustlers, December 7: The Hustlers, December 8: The Hustlers, December 9: The Hustlers, December 10: The Hustlers, December 11: The Hustlers, December 12: The Hustlers, December 13: The Hustlers, December 14: The Hustlers, December 15: The Hustlers, December 16: The Hustlers, December 17: The Hustlers, December 18: The Hustlers, December 19: The Hustlers, December 20: The Hustlers, December 21: The Hustlers, December 22: The Hustlers, December 23: The Hustlers, December 24: The Hustlers, December 25: The Hustlers, December 26: The Hustlers, December 27: The Hustlers, December 28: The Hustlers, December 29: The Hustlers, December 30: The Hustlers, December 31: The Hustlers.

Celebrate Brooklyn

Prospect Park Bandshell at Prospect Park West and 9th Street in Park Slope, (718) 855-7882, www.celebratebrooklyn.org. June 26: Hal Wilner's Hall Young Project (see page 7), July 1: Israel and Palestinian Hip-Hop with Moshé, Soged 50, Headbush, eMatisphu, Palestinian MC TN and the Yael Ben Sirtion Salsa Ensemble, Kenny Mahamad, George Mordichian, 7:30 pm, \$3 donation.

Chocolate Monkey

329 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 813-1073. Friday: "Reggae after Work" with Winston Irie and the Collective Crew, 7:30 pm, FREE.

Flying Saucer

494 Atlantic Ave. at Hovemann Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 522-1382. Saturday: "Rally" with DJ John Burns, 7:30 pm, FREE. Sunday: "Sunday Service" with DJ John Burns, noon, FREE. Thursday: "Loungeing" with DJ John Burns, 9 pm, FREE.

Frank's Lounge

600 Fulton St. at South Elliott Place in Fort Greene, (718) 625-9339, www.frankcocktail.com. Saturday: Sinfu Saturdays w/ DJ Tyrone and Infirno, 9 pm, \$5. Sunday: Live Jazz, 7 pm, FREE. Thursday: Lonnie Youngblood & The

Blood Brothers, 8 pm, FREE. Friday: Flan Dance Party, 10 pm, \$5. June 29: Tuesday Night Live with Paula, 9 pm, FREE with two drink minimum.

Liberty Heights Tap Room

34 Van Dyke St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook, (718) 246-8860. Thursday: Open mic, 10 pm, FREE. June 26: "Tea rock band night" with Nothing Left to Prove, Big Bang, 4 pm, FREE.

Lillies

46 Board St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook, (718) 858-9822. Thursday: Open mic, 10 pm, FREE. June 26: "Tea rock band night" with Nothing Left to Prove, Big Bang, 4 pm, FREE.

Galapagos

70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188, www.galapagosart-space.com. Friday: Galapagos Floating Voodoo with Jonah Smith, 10 pm, \$5. June 26: DJ Lady Ace, 11 pm, FREE. June 28: Monday Evening Burlesque with Nasty Conats, 9:30 pm, FREE. June 29: New Rock Weekly with Bill King, Paula Under Sea Explosion, 7:30 pm, \$6. June 30: Pussy, The Monks, 10 pm, \$5. July 1: DJ Katanga, Timothy Dark, Red Jacket, Lorraine Leslie, Kathy Zimmer, 8 pm, \$6.

Lucky 13 Saloon

273 13th St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 499-7553, www.lucky13saloon.com. June 29: Candia CD release party, 8 pm, FREE. June 30: 13 Saloon's 6th month anniversary party with Go-Go Burlesque and DJ, 9 pm, FREE.

The Hook

18 Commerce St. at Columbia Street in Red Hook, (718) 797-3007, www.thehook-music.com. June 26: Lethow Crack, Morning Glory, Day-con Smenders, 8:30 pm, \$7, July 1: Lethow Crack, 8:30 pm, \$7.

IO Restaurant

119 Kent Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 388-3303, www.iorestaurantdowntown.com. Friday: Live DJ spins salsa and house, 10 pm, FREE. Saturday: Live DJ spins salsa and house, 10 pm, FREE.

Kill Bar-Cafe

81 West St. at State Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 555-5574. Saturday: Live DJ Music, 10:30 pm, FREE. Wednesday: The Low Shuck with DJ Matteo, 10:30 pm, FREE. Friday: DJ Chuspy plays rock, hip-hop and funk, 10:30 pm, FREE.

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113 N. Seventh St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 486-0799, www.lailalounge.com. June 26: (Lupatin) Don One spins hip-hop, 10 pm, FREE. (Downstate) Deep Down, Pink Socks, 9 pm, \$6. June 27: Jazz Concert Series

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46 Board St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook, (718) 858-9822. Thursday: Open mic, 10 pm, FREE. June 26: "Tea rock band night" with Nothing Left to Prove, Big Bang, 4 pm, FREE.

Galapagos

70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188, www.galapagosart-space.com. Friday: Galapagos Floating Voodoo with Jonah Smith, 10 pm, \$5. June 26: DJ Lady Ace, 11 pm, FREE. June 28: Monday Evening Burlesque with Nasty Conats, 9:30 pm, FREE. June 29: New Rock Weekly with Bill King, Paula Under Sea Explosion, 7:30 pm, \$6. June 30: Pussy, The Monks, 10 pm, \$5. July 1: DJ Katanga, Timothy Dark, Red Jacket, Lorraine Leslie, Kathy Zimmer, 8 pm, \$6.

Lucky 13 Saloon

273 13th St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 499-7553, www.lucky13saloon.com. June 29: Candia CD release party, 8 pm, FREE. June 30: 13 Saloon's 6th month anniversary party with Go-Go Burlesque and DJ, 9 pm, FREE.

The Hook

18 Commerce St. at Columbia Street in Red Hook, (718) 797-3007, www.thehook-music.com. June 26: Lethow Crack, Morning Glory, Day-con Smenders, 8:30 pm, \$7, July 1: Lethow Crack, 8:30 pm, \$7.

IO Restaurant

119 Kent Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 388-3303, www.iorestaurantdowntown.com. Friday: Live DJ spins salsa and house, 10 pm, FREE. Saturday: Live DJ spins salsa and house, 10 pm, FREE.

Kill Bar-Cafe</

YASSKY MAY SEEK DA HYNES' OFFICE...

Continued from page 1

neighborhoods," said Fleischman, 47, when asked about key issues for the district. Fleischman is a former Community Board 6 member and lives in Park Slope.

Simon, 51, a disability rights attorney with a practice in Downtown Brooklyn, is a former president of the Boerum Hill Association.

She has also headed the Gowanus Expressway Community Coalition and the Gowanus Community Stakeholders Group and now helps co-chair the Downtown Brooklyn Coalition, a group of community organizations providing local input into the massive Downtown Brooklyn rezoning plan.

Simon, who was appointed to the co-district leader post in February, says she is still learning the ropes of that position and that it is too early to make a decision about seeking office. "I am considering it," she added.

Devin Cohen, a personal injury attorney and Community Board 6 member, also has his eye on the seat.

Cohen, 36, is president of the Independent Neighbor-



If Councilman David Yassky (left) seeks to oust District Attorney Charles Hynes, (right) his seat could be taken by Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce President Kenneth Addams (center).

hood Democrats (IND) political club and chairs the public safety and environmental protection committees of CB6.

The lifelong judo enthusiast is also an EMT and active with the Park Slope Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Further to the north, attorney Adam Perlmutter, 39, of Greenpoint, is eyeing the seat.

The former Queens assistant district attorney is now in private practice and recently repre-

sented several people arrested for protesting the closure of New York City firehouses.

He is also one of the founders of Greenpoint Waterfront Association for Parks & Planning, an environmental advocacy group, and president of Congregation Ahavas Israel synagogue.

Isaac Abraham, 54, of Williamsburg, is also considering the race. He runs a hardware store in Kensington and was a founder of the Fed-

eration of Tenants Councils of Williamsburg.

Abraham has been a tenant advocate for the past several decades and has been a spokesman for the Sattar set of Hasidic Jews, of which he is a member. He was a spokesman for the family of Yankel Rosenbaum after the Jewish scholar was killed during the Crown Heights race riot in 1991.

Yassky, 40, a former Brooklyn Law School professor, has

n't officially declared his candidacy. Yassky spokesman Evan Thies said this week, "He is seriously considering it, but that race is still more than a year away and he'll make a decision some time down the line."

But based on the large amount of money he has already raised — Yassky would face almost no challenge were he to run for re-election to his council seat — political consultant Joseph Mercurio says all signs point to Yassky running.

Mercurio estimated a race against Hynes could run upwards of \$1 million.

If he does announce a bid for the DA's office Yassky would have to relinquish his council seat.

Because the council district stretches across so many disparate communities, Mercurio says it is unlikely that one candidate will have overarching support.

"You would expect a relatively low turnout election and each [candidate] getting a particular neighborhood," he said.

Hynes is now serving his fourth term as Brooklyn DA. He was first elected in 1989.

The names of state Sen. John Sampson, of Canarsie, former Brooklyn prosecutor Arnold Kriss, and Mark Peters, who heads Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's public integrity unit, are also being floated as potential candidates for district attorney.

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COFFEE...

Continued from page 1

"It's the end of DUMBO," lamented Ulysses Beato, a photographer who lives and works in a loft at 135 Plymouth St.

"Or, if it's not the end, it's certainly the swan song," he said. Beato, who splits his time between Brooklyn and Miami, moved into the neighborhood six years ago when, he says, there weren't any stores in the area. "You had to go to Brooklyn Heights or across from the Farragut Houses to get any groceries or a cup of coffee," he said.

Things have certainly changed since then with new bars and restaurants, a high-end chocolatier and even the neighborhood's first bank branch opening their doors.

But Beato and several other residents fear Starbucks could attract other large chains, and lead to the "denise of the beautiful artist community."

If a deal is reached, Starbucks would move into the 1,600-square-foot commercial space above 67 Front St., at Main Street, recently constructed by Boymelgreen.

For now, people looking for a caffeine fix in the neighborhood head to the General Store, a coffee shop, cafe and art supply store on Front Street near Washington Street, to the Peas & Pickles deli, or Front Street Pizzeria.

General Store owner Anna Castellani opened the cafe with an eclectic set of couches and wooden picnic tables three years ago. While Starbucks could hurt her business, Castellani says she offers something Starbucks doesn't.

"We appeal to different kinds of people," she said, adding that

some people in the neighborhood would probably welcome the chain.

Starbucks, where cafe lattes (espresso and steamed milk) are de rigueur and where a small coffee is called "tall," a large is called "grande" and an even larger cup of coffee is called "venti," also sells coffee beans, sandwiches, salads and pastries, as well as coffee making and drinking gear and even refillable payment cards.

A large coffee averages just under \$2 at most Starbucks, while roughly the same size goes for about \$1.50 at the General Store, which will soon double as a bar at night.

While Kim was optimistic that a deal would be brokered with Starbucks for the Front and Main space, which is still under construction, a Starbucks spokesman would not confirm the coffee giant's interest in DUMBO.

"Starbucks is always looking for good locations for our stores and the DUMBO area would be a good fit for us. However, we cannot confirm anything at this point," said Dan Lewis, a regional spokesman for the company.

Starbucks, which calls its employees "partners" and its customers "guests," now has 177 coffeehouses in New York City, including 10 in Brooklyn.

Those are located in Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, Brighton Beach, Park Slope, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Brooklyn Heights.

Nancy Webster, president of the DUMBO Neighborhood Association, said she was not concerned about the coffee giant moving in.

"We want thriving retail in DUMBO and ... we certainly anticipate that if a Starbucks came in there they'd be a good neighbor," she said.

"Obviously we are most excited about local, homegrown retail that opposed to national chains; however, Starbucks does provide places where people can gather and talk and foster that sense of community," Webster added.

David Stowe, a Brooklyn Heights resident who often rides his bike to read at the General Store, was sitting at one of the large tables this week.

Stowe, who said he had nothing against Starbucks, and even frequents the one on Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights, nevertheless said DUMBO was different.

"I wouldn't want a Starbucks to open here," he said. "I like the smaller businesses."

ROSS...

Continued from page 1

neighborhoods and they understood the concept that local people have to be served by neighborhood people."

Ross declined to say how much Halseid paid for his company. The Brooklyn Heights native, who has been selling real estate in the area for more than 20 years, believes local offices should be staffed with employees who live in the area, a philosophy he will carry over to Halseid.

In addition to a new annex at the Cobble Hill location (the installation of which may take a while in the landmark district) other changes will include an in-depth Web site and the possibility of more co-broking.

While the Real Estate Board of New York requires all Manhattan members to share listings, the practice is not common in Brooklyn.

But Ross says he hopes to encourage more co-broking to allow for easier sales for both seller and buyer.

Diane Ramirez, president of Halstead Property, said of crossing the East River, "Brooklyn is such the perfect extension of what we do so well in the Manhattan market. We view Brooklyn not as a new market place, because the customers are really the same. We're very excited to have a presence in Brooklyn and we see this as just the start."

Over the past few years several other Manhattan firms have branched out into Brooklyn, including Corcoran and William B. May.

Corcoran opened its offices on Montague Street in 1999, after acquiring the Brooklyn Landmark brokerage.

Halstead's parent company, Terra Holdings, already controls half of William B. May's Brooklyn operations.

Sandra Dowling, principal owner of Brooklyn Heights Real Estate on Montague Street, said she didn't see Halstead as a threat to smaller Realtors.

"Our business is about our agents and service to the neighborhood," she said. "In Manhattan firms there is much more co-broking and that will change here and that will benefit the consumer."

Frank Percepsie, managing director of the Corcoran Brooklyn Heights office, said he wasn't surprised other large Manhattan firms are moving into the area.

"The business has been very good in Brooklyn and a lot of the large firms have been eyeing the business we've been doing out here and they've decided to come in and give it a shot," he said.

Corcoran Group recently acquired Citi Habitats, a large residential rental brokerage firm, and its affiliated companies including SoLofts, which has one of its three citywide offices at 145 Montague St.

That location will now be converted into an expansion of the Corcoran offices down the block, adding 20 new agents to the operation.

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Park Slope Office

Lawsuit, book for P'Slope ADA

By Michael Weissenstein
Associated Press

Robert Reuland parked his black Mercedes station wagon at a meter and walked across Ralph Avenue to a half-dead strip mall.

On a cloudy February morning four years ago in this bleak stretch of Brooklyn, a 16-year-old boy leaned across a bodega counter and fired a .45-caliber derringer into the Lebanese immigrant owner's chest. Khalil "Pop" Hussein died where he fell.

Reuland, then an assistant district attorney, put the killers in prison. But the crime faded from the headlines, and the bodega closed down. Black plastic is taped across storefront windows.

"This is a place where a man exited the world. You would never know it," Reuland said, peering through the plastic. "We forget very well in New York City."

Reuland hasn't forgotten. He published his first novel after the Hussein killing, infuriated his boss and lost his job. Now he's revisiting the murder in a new novel and his troubled relationship with District Attorney Charles Hynes in a lawsuit set for trial in July.

The Hussein slaying figures prominently in "Semiautomatic," out this month. The book brings back protagonist Andrew Gribbert, a bitter and burned-out assistant DA, to prosecute a thinly fictionalized version of the 2000 killing.

"Semiautomatic" draws a bleak portrait of a Brooklyn criminal justice system peopled with dishonest cops, careerist prosecutors and killers who get away with murder. Reuland's cynical take has won him positive reviews, and a \$500,000 advance for both books.

But he also says his writing has cost him his beloved job as a prosecutor, and set up the legal battle with Hynes.

Reuland's troubles began after publication of his first book, "Hollowpoint," in 2001. He was quoted in New York magazine saying: "Brooklyn is the best place to be a homicide prosecutor. We've got more dead bodies per square inch than anywhere else."

State Sen. Marty Markowitz, now borough president, complained to Hynes about the blemish on Brooklyn's image. Reuland says he was then demoted and forced to resign.

Reuland used Hynes in federal court. He claims the district attorney violated his First Amendment right to free speech when he forced him out because of the interview and the content of his book.

"As a novelist and as a lawyer I have an obligation to stand up for the sanctity of protected speech," Reuland, 40, said. "You shouldn't be punished for publicizing a book."

The city's law department declined to comment on the matter.

But the city argues in its legal filings that Reuland's statements about Brooklyn homicides don't merit First Amendment protection because they merely promoted his book and did not address a topic of public interest. In any case, the city says, Reuland was demoted and forced to resign because of his bad attitude after his new posting to a part of the office covering low-crime sections of Brooklyn.

For his part, Reuland takes shots at his former boss. He charges that the district attorney's office sought indictments in cases considered "easy wins" just to buttress its conviction rate, while dismissing felony cases or reducing them to misdemeanors to sanitize statistics on serious crime.

Hynes, a veteran New York politician who has been DA since 1990, faces a potentially tough race next year. He will likely take the stand if Reuland's case goes to trial. A spokesman for Hynes declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Trial or not, in his writing Reuland draws an unflattering portrait of the DA's office, loosely based on the real thing. By the end of the first book, Gribbert has been demoted to the unglamorous appeals bureau by the politically minded DA. In "Semiautomatic," he gets a chance to work his way out by prosecuting the bodega slaying.

"Semiautomatic" was called "one of the better crime and punishment tales we've seen in a long time," by the Rocky Mountain News. The Washington Post called "Hollowpoint" "an unforgettable journey into a fallen hero's psyche...using language so carefully cadenced it borders on poetry." Other reviewers called it "affecting and raw," "simply terrific" and "an unforgettable first novel."

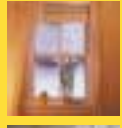
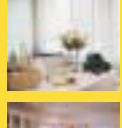
Reuland will be appearing at Sunny's Bar in Red Hook on July 11 at 3 p.m.

June 26, 2004

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